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Photo reference of the US Army's
new combat uniform



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Tamiya's Panther G goes
to Normandy



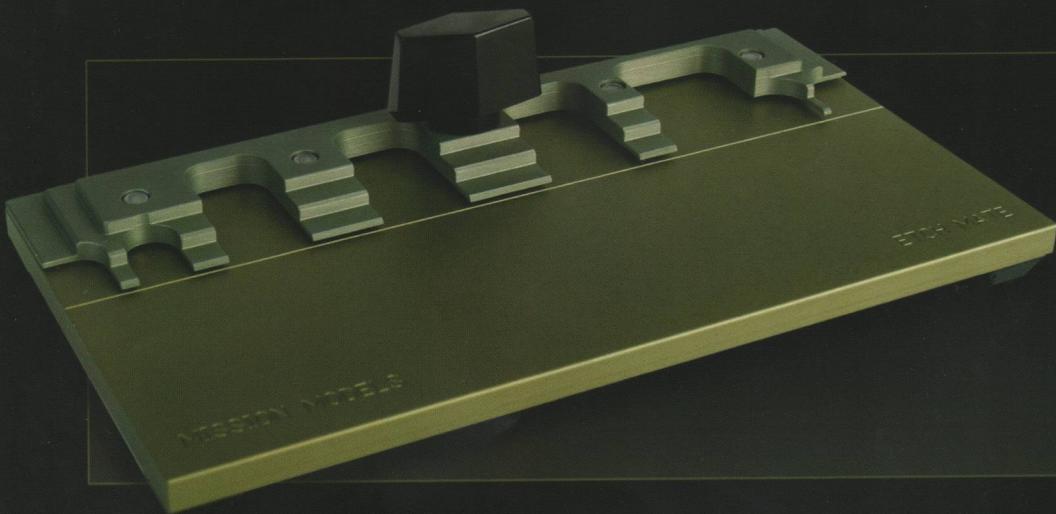
FAuL WEISS

Italeri's Sd.Kfz 232 is the subject of a mega tech guide by Fraser Gray

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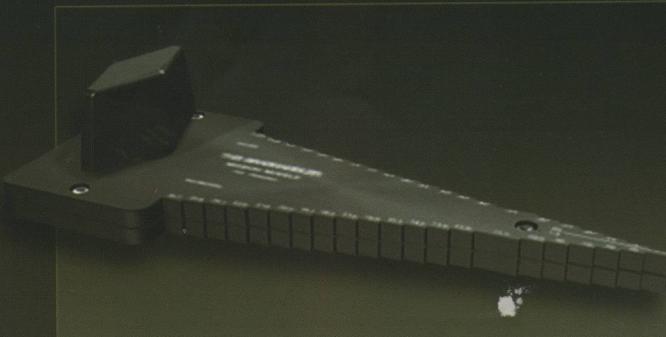


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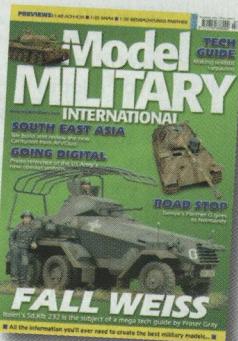
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Diary Dates...

Expo 2006

October 8th 2006
IPMS Lincoln / IPMS Newark and The Spitfire SIG wish to announce Expo 2006 to be held at The Grandstand, Southwell Racecourse, Nottinghamshire.

Free admission, free parking, club displays, wide range of traders, 30 competition classes, on site catering and bar and above all, a friendly atmosphere.

Scale Modelworld 2006

November 18th / 19th 2006
IPMS Scale Modelworld 2006 to be held at the Telford International Centre Incorporating the IPMS / UK Annual Competition. Open Saturday from 10.am to 6.00pm and Sunday from 10.00am to 4.00pm (IPMS members' admission from 9.00am) Expect the usual 100 or so traders and 60 or so club displays including some from overseas.

Ticket prices are:-
a) Adults £9.00 for one day.
b) Senior Citizens and Concessions £6.00 for one day.
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Advance tickets may be purchased from:

The Treasurer, 77 Sutherland Avenue, Petts Wood, Kent BR5 1QY. These tickets will not gain you early entrance but will save you a lot of queuing. Cheques only please made payable to IPMS UK and for one day tickets please state the day you will be visiting the show as tickets are colour coded.

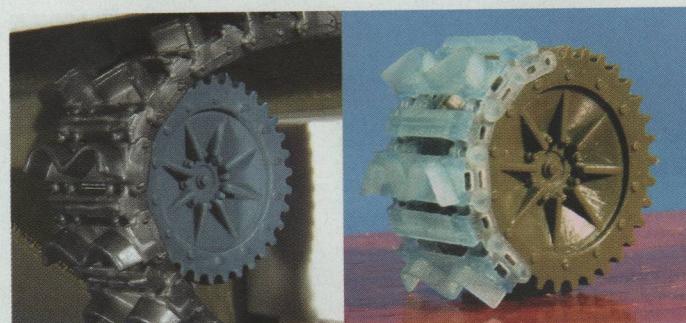
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For details of how to obtain advance passes to save a lot of queuing visit:
www.ipms-uk.co.uk/scalemodelworld/memberstickets06.htm

If you would like your event or show publicised in our diary dates column, please email: editor@modelmilitary.com or send full details to the usual address.

CHUFFING MASSIVE

Whilst on the quest to find some interesting stuff to fill the news page, I came across this. If you thought Trumpeter's 1:35 BR-52 locomotive was a bit on the large side for the average modelling table, then take a look at this!

Even if the Dragon 1:6 "Action Man" figures aren't your thing, take a look, as this truly is an awesome piece of modelling. To see the rest of the photos of this massive out doors diorama take a look at; www.onesixthcollectors.co.uk



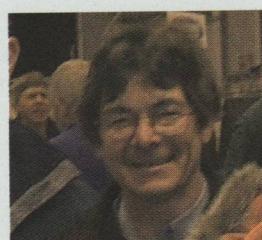
WORKING TRACKS FOR LVTs ARE ON THE WAY

We all know Dave Harper at Hard Corps Models is a massive fan of the LVT Amtracs and has been instrumental in bringing some superb updates out for the Italeri kit, as well as mastering his own full resin kit. But the one thing that has let the Italeri kit down has been its tracks, but this is all about to change when these new incredibly detailed working tracks go into production shortly. For more info go to www.hardcorpsmodels.com



TASCA'S LATEST

At the time of going to press these are the first photos of Tasca's brand new injection moulded 1:35 Sherman Firefly. The kit comprises approximately 400 parts. Some of the highlights include etched brass parts, transparent periscopes, a set of highly detailed British pattern Chevron tracks, a commander figure and four decal options. Hopefully as soon as we receive one we will do a full review.



JOHN BAUMANN 1952-2006

A tribute by John Rulton

It causes much sadness and regret to inform readers of the sudden death of John Baumann. His association number of I290 datum's his 34 years of involvement with the MAFVA. For twenty of those years he served as the information officer giving yeoman service. He was one of those genuine nice guys who was always ready to help others and made many friends at home and abroad through his efforts on their behalf.

John was an accomplished modeller, draughtsman, and regular contributor to Tankette. His abiding passion though was



AN OLD SOVIET IN SE 1

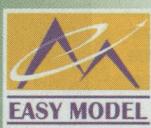
A man bought this 32-ton Russian T-34 tank for his 7-year-old son as a birthday present several years ago (the guy lived on Pages walk, which the tank sits at the end of). The council once tried to have it removed from the wasteland it sits on, believing it had been dumped, but then found out the son also owned the rights to the land it sits on.

Local legend says that the tank's gun is pointed towards Southwark Council's planning offices.

Thanks to Dave Knight for giving us the heads up on this one.

For more information and a laugh at some of the stuff abandoned in our nation's capital, go to www.derelictLondon.com

researching the history and details of all manner of obscure foreign vehicles from 1900 to 1945. His endeavours in this direction earned him great respect, and provided a legacy of information that would have been unknown but for his industry. A Leicestershire lad, John was an active member of London MAFVA, a good mate, but above all a devoted & caring family man. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family, to Christine his wife, and their daughters, Louise & Karen. As with many others I mourn his passing. R.I.P.



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The German Maus 143mm long inc barrel

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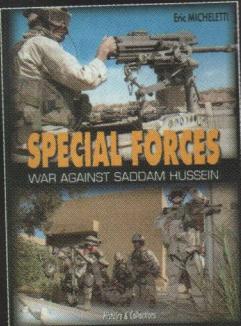
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Feature of the month

Special Forces in Iraq War Against Saddam Hussein

Authors: Eric Micheletti
Published by Histoire & Collection

£27.95



While most books on the recent and ongoing conflict in Iraq concentrate on the political side of it, this is a book firmly rooted on the hardware side of it. Another great value book from Histoire & Collections, this large format hardback is a comprehensive look at all of the Men and Machines of the Special Forces of most if not all of the countries who are or who were in Iraq in the 'War Phase' of the conflict. Colour action photos from the conflict are mixed with re-enactors wearing all of the combat gear and hardware. A descriptive text about the equipment and the battles fought complete one of the best books on the subject.

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British Army Handbook 1914-1918 (Sutton)	£25.00
Britain's Last Tommies (As Seen on TV!)	£19.99
Camo Uniforms of the German Wehrmacht	£59.95
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Geronomi! US Airborne Uniforms & Equip	£49.95
German Armoured Trains Vol.1 (Schiffer)	£8.95
German Armoured Trains Vol.2 (Schiffer)	£8.95
German Paratroops, Uniforms & Equip	£49.95
German Soldiers of WWII (H&C)	£25.95
Germany's Panther Tank (Schiffer)	£39.95
GI Collectors Guide (H&C)	£29.95
Helmets of the First World War (Schiffer)	£59.95
Humvee At War (Zenith)	£12.99
Individual Gear of the GI in Europe (Schiffer)	£49.95
Janes Guns Recognition Guide (New Ed)	£20.00
Janes Tanks Recognition Guide (New Ed)	£20.00
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QUARTER SCALE GO GO BIRD

Paul Egerton takes a peek at Italeri's all new 1:48 Chinook "Heavy Gunship" Helicopter.

Hot on the heels of Trumpeter's 1:35 Chinooks comes a smaller 1:48 offering from Italeri of the A version in 'gunship' format. Hopefully, further variants will follow including perhaps those in current service with the RAF.

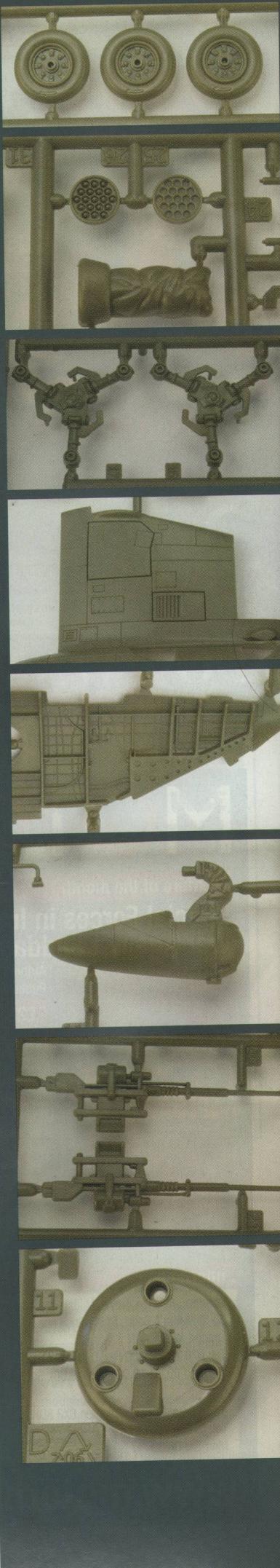
The kit comes in the distinctive new blue and grey packaging with eye-catching artwork on the box lid and an illustration of one of the builds therein together with some detail shots of the model on the bottom. The kit itself consists of

some 160 crisply moulded, flash free parts in olive green plastic together with 7 clear parts for the glazing. Decals are provided for 3 US Army versions, two from the 1967 Vietnam era and one from the Aberdeen Proving Ground in 1966. The latter is the more colourful in that it has the yellow lettering of the period and full colour stars and bars. The decals themselves are first rate, thin, in register and with the absolute minimum of carrier film. Instructions are standard Italeri - clear, concise and easy to follow.

The level of detail is particularly fine although the panel lines on the fuselage are perhaps a little heavy but nothing to get too concerned about. As seems to be the norm amongst current helo kits, the interior is built up as a separate unit allowing a high level of detail. In particular, I liked the detail depicted on the bulkheads between the cockpit and cargo

area, one minor inaccuracy is that the cylindrical cabin heater located on the right hand side of this bulkhead was actually removed as part of the weight saving measures on all these "Go Go birds" and also that around and above the rear-loading ramp (missing on the Academy CH46 for some inexplicable reason). The leading edge section of the rear pylon also has full detailing if the option with open access doors is chosen. The weapons including the chin mounted 40mm grenade launcher, 2.75 inch rocket pods, 20mm cannons and respective ammunition containers are all nicely detailed and result in a particularly aggressive looking aircraft. My only minor gripe is that it would have been nice to have the option to build a standard troop transport version but, with no seats provided, scratchbuilding skills will be needed.

This is an excellent kit from Italeri and at a very reasonable price considering its size. Unreservedly recommended and let's hope for further versions. ■



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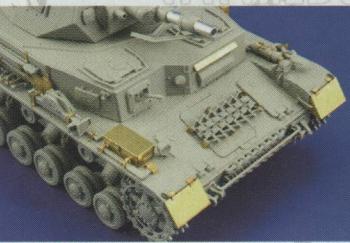
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FALL WEISS

Fraser Gray brings Italeri's Sd.Kfz.232 to life with another of his helpful and informative tech guides...



Over the past couple of years there has been a steady decline in local model shops, those, which have survived, have seen their business future in stocking toys alongside a reduced selection of kits. Despite this, there has been a growth of independent traders, who supply enthusiasts through mail order and Internet sales. This has resulted in retailer and customer both being reliant on the post office. Despite a few problems the service is generally, very good. Unfortunately my mail

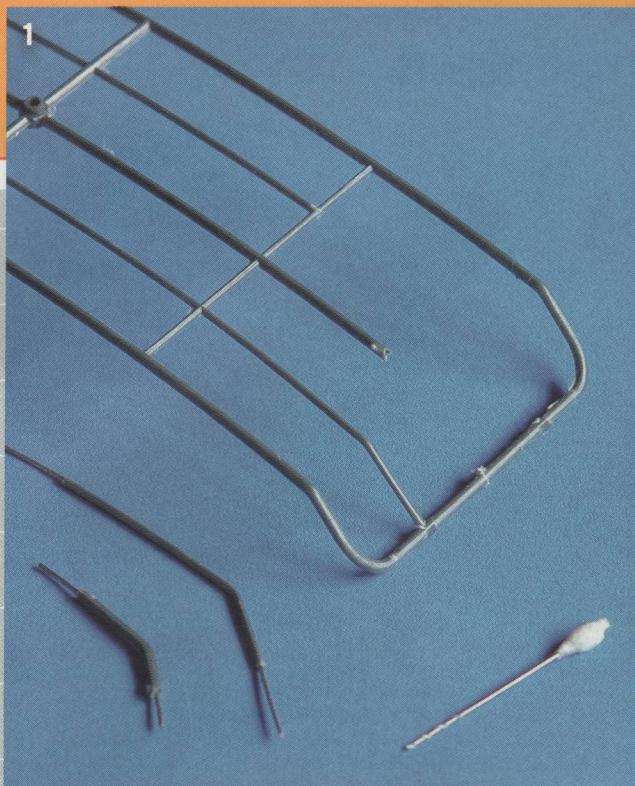
ordered Italeri Sd.Kfz. 232 came in for some particularly rough treatment from the post office, and despite being well packaged and wrapped by LSA Models, arrived in a crushed and split box. I opened the kit box seal and looked at the damage to the model. The delicate frame aerial and parts of the support brackets were broken. I was able to find all the broken parts of the aerial, but I could not find one of the upper hull lights, part 16c which was missing. This could have been avoided if Italeri had packed the sprues in plastic

bags. All the other components had survived and so I felt confident I could repair the damage.

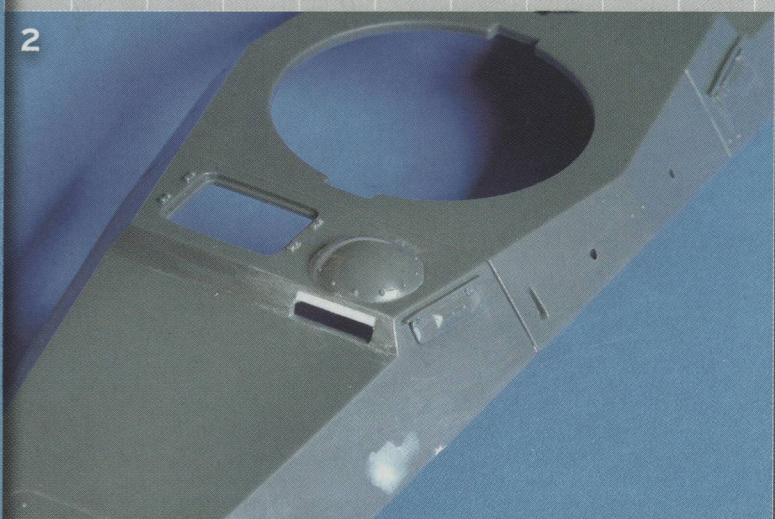
The model is quite straightforward to assemble, but has the characteristics of recent Italeri releases in having soft detail. The detailing was sharpened up by using only of the most useful parts from an Eduard set designed for use on the HPM kit. There seems to be an absurd arms race going on between the photo etch companies at the moment to produce ridiculously, complicated sets which offer very little practical help to

the modeller, instead of producing useful items, such as the tiny miniature pad locks for the stowage boxes, where P.E parts excel. The absurdity of these complicated parts only prevent good kits from being built, painted and finished, which I feel is no good to anyone!

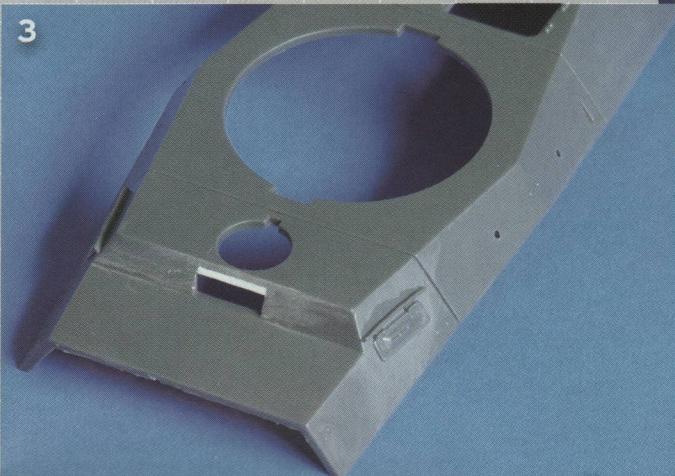
It is best to dry fit parts before applying any adhesive, as I found that sub assemblies such as the drive transmission part 51b, required a little trimming to fit into place. I used some plastic card and a Historex punch and die set to make a replacement for



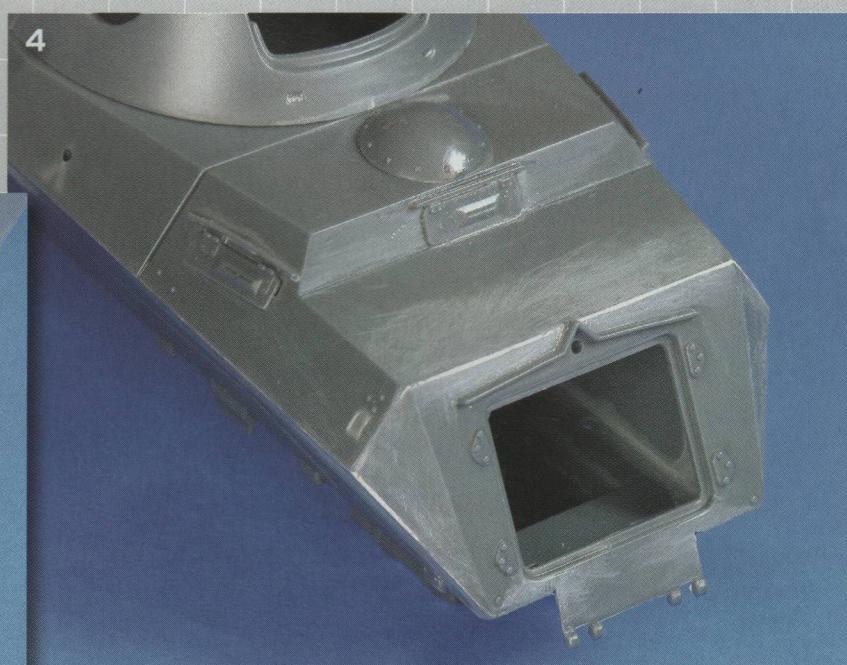
1. I was confident that a neat repair could be made to the damaged aerial array. From experience, I have found it is impossible to simply glue broken parts together with adhesive. The particularly small contact area of the aerial frame allows only a small surface area for the glue to bond with, so it would continually break. I used the 'drill and pin' technique for the repair. After selecting a suitable sized drill I coated the end in a paste made from talcum powder and super glue, and applied it with a cocktail stick. This makes the drill easy to use by hand and the delicate frame can be slowly and precisely drilled out to take the locating pin. Fine wire was then inserted and the broken parts were then glued into place with super glue. After a wipe with wet & dry 800 grade fine paper, a strong and invisible repair was made.



2. I had to cut thin strips of plastic card to improve the fit of the driving position armoured visors.



3. Both the front and rear facing drivers vision ports needed improving with strips of plastic card to obtain a better fit for the separate visors.



4. The rear plate required a careful application of Revell Plasto modelling body putty to improve the fit.

the missing light. The other lights were drilled out, with a clear lens added again made using the punch and die set. I replaced part of the width indicators parts 11c, with stretched sprue, which improved their appearance. Because of the damage to the aerial and supports I glued the turret in position, to prevent any strain being placed on the repaired parts.

The only other problem with the kit is reference material. As the armoured car was manufactured by three different companies. Contemporary photographs show

a variation in details and fittings between all the armoured cars. The photographs I have seen, suffer from high contrast because of the dark grey finish of the vehicles, with detail hidden in the shadows of the faceted hull. I found it difficult to identify the particular vehicle, which Italeri have based their kit on. Furthermore, some captions describe the cylindrical exhaust muffler supplied in the kit as a 'roller' to aid cross-country performance. Compared with some drawings, the Italeri kit would appear to have a jack missing, and

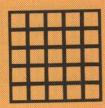
so I used the jack from Tamiya's German on vehicle equipment set. I am not sure if it is the correct style, because of the vagueness of the drawings. It may have been a style particular to the lorry chassis, which the armoured car was built on. I would welcome any clarification on this point.

The kit assembles into an attractive model of an unusual German vehicle. It is obvious why the armoured car was so popular with the propaganda ministry, with its sinister appearance and black clad crew. ■



Tech Tip! - MIG Pigments

Using these powders either wet or dry can really help bring the model to life. Available from: www.creativemodels.co.uk



Tech Guide - ARMOUR MODELLING TECHNIQUES

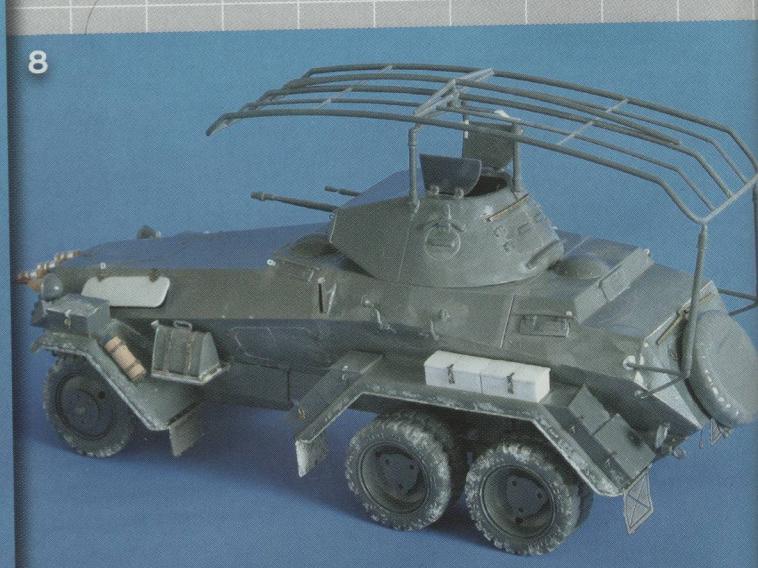
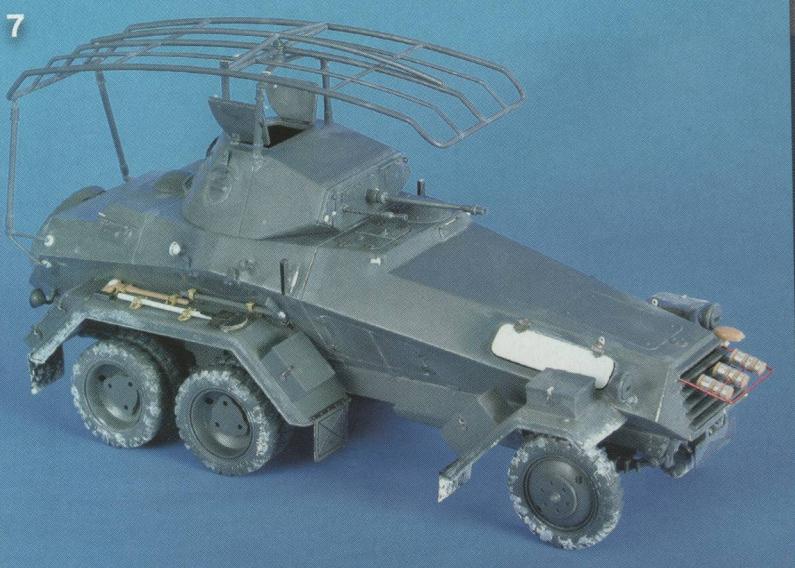
Italeri Sd.Kfz.232 (6 Rad) • Kit No. 6433



5. The chassis of the model is well detailed. I have improved the soft detail of the exhaust muffler with retaining braces made from strips of adhesive foil. The kit's exhaust mounting brackets have been used as a template and replacement parts cut from thin plastic card for an improved scale appearance.



6. The tracking rod for the steering mechanism has been replaced with plastic rod because the brittle plastic of the kit's part broke while I was cleaning up mould seams.



7.8.9. The completed model ready for an application of paint, we can see that the kit has only received some minor detailing, in the form of some etched brass parts from Eduard and some better detailed pioneer tools from Tamiya's panzer IV on vehicle tool set.



10. The next stage in the painting process is to try and break up the overall uniform grey of the model by subtly suggesting the bleaching effects of the sun on the vehicles flat plates. It is natural to select white to mix into the base colour. When White is used to replicate the bleaching effects of the sun it has the effect of giving the German Grey a very chalky appearance, which is not convincing. I learned a tip from the armour modeller John Boyton, who suggested I try mixing in Pink! So I had a go, using pink from the Tamiya range of paints. Unfortunately it's a gloss colour, but as the amounts of pink pigment used in the weathering mix was comparatively small, it only imparted a slight sheen. I applied the paint through an airbrush, systematically concentrating on the centre of all the armoured plates on the upper surface. The same technique was used on all the lower plates but mixing less pink, to give the impression of a naturally occurring shade.



11. The airbrush is thoroughly cleaned in preparation for the weathering of the chassis. I first charged the airbrush with a blend of the base colour XF-63, and a small amount of Tamiya Red Brown XF-64. The paint was applied at close range into the deepest part of the chassis and underneath the mudguards and along the junctions of the armoured plates on the upper hull. Lighter passes were then made at medium distance gradual feathering the paint up the lower hull sides. The most realistic effect is to avoid any harsh demarcation between the dust and the base colour of the vehicle. Finally a light pass was made with the introduction of Tamiya Flat Earth XF-52. This was concentrated on the lower part of the Chassis. The effect of using dark and light coats gives the model interest and depth and avoids a flat and toy like appearance to the completed model.



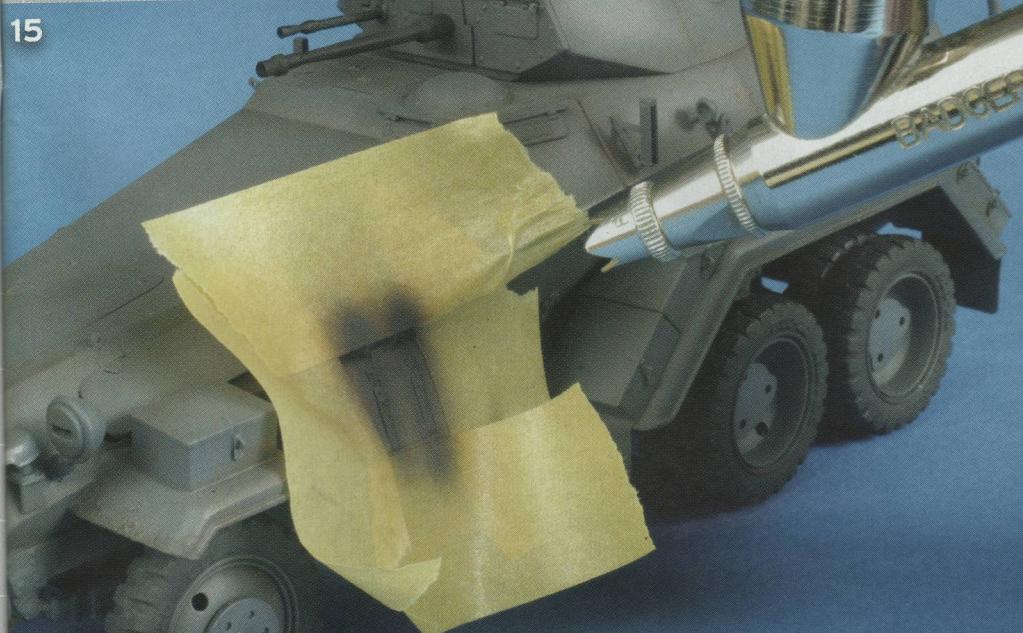
12. To paint the spare wheel cover and avoid any over spray, a fan shape of Tamiya masking tape was used to mask the rear hull, so the spare wheel cover could be airbrushed. The tyre cover was airbrushed with a mixture of Tamiya XF-61 Dark Green and XF-63. With this blend still in the airbrushes reservoir, a small amount of Tamiya XF-60 Dark Yellow was added to lighten the mix. The airbrush was then angled down on to the cover and a light application of paint was sprayed on to the cover. The paint then gradually accumulates on the high points giving a pleasant shaded effect.



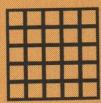
13. The area around the armoured car's cannon and coaxial machine gun has been masked off with more tape in preparation to airbrushing the armament. As XF-1 Flat Black would be far to stark effect, I lightened it by adding XF-63. This acts as a base coat for an application of graphite powder, collected from the dust produced by rubbing a pencil lead on coarse sand paper. When applied with a finger the graphite powder produces a convincing gunmetal sheen, it is applied only when the model is completed because of the various gloss and flat varnishes that have yet to be applied to the model, and it would remove the effect.



14. The pioneer tools can now be painted. The previous modelling session I undercoated the wooden handles in a blend of Humbrol 29 Matt Dark Earth darkened Matt 33 Black applied to the model with a paintbrush. When the paint had cured painting very fine lines in the same Humbrol 29 Matt Dark simulated the wood grain, but this time lightened with Humbrol 81 Matt pale Yellow. When the highlights are dry the edges can be feathered with a fine brush moistened in White spirit to give a pleasing wood grain effect. The cutting edges of the tools were painted in a blend of Humbrol 11 Silver with the lustre removed with a substantial amount of black. When touch dry gradually increase the silver content of the mix to replicate the worn portion of the tools.



15. The straps supporting the spare fuel can were masked with Tamiya masking tape and punched in with an airbrush charged with a blend of Tamiya XF-64 Red Brown and XF-1 to represent dark leather. The highlights were sprayed in by adding more Red Brown to the mix, and spraying down onto the straps in the same manner as the spare tyre cover was painted. As the straps curve round the fuel can, less paint accumulates, giving a convincing three-dimensional effect to the detail. When the paint was touch dry, I painted the buckles in a mix of Humbrol Silver and Matt Black. I then carefully painted in the highlights with the same blend of paint, but this time adding more silver.

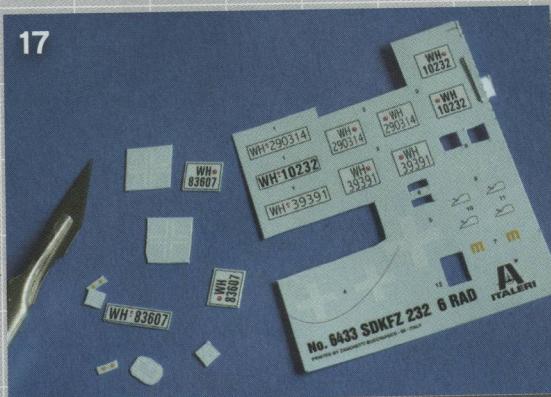


16



16. With the bulk of the painting completed the model can be sealed with an overall coat of Johnson Wax Klear floor polish, protecting the painted surface and preparing the model for the application of decals.

17



17. The markings are for armoured cars that were an overall Panzer Grey, so it is just the case of selecting the correct license plate numbers and tactical markings. I always trim my decals to remove as much of the carrier film as possible.

18



18. Once in place a cotton bud is placed near, but not in contact with the decal and it absorbs any excess water, pulling the decal smartly down onto the varnished paintwork.

19



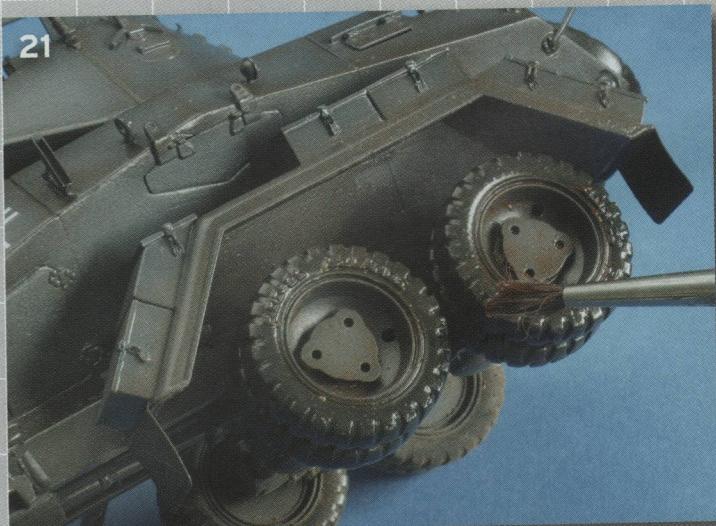
19. After a soak in a dish of water the decals are brought to the model and gently eased into position with a fine paintbrush.

20



20. One of the most effective and comparatively new products available to the modeller are weathering powders. I used MIG Europe Dust P028 weathering powders to simulate a build up of dust and grime around the tyres and lower chassis sides. The powder was used straight from the tub, and applied in a stabbing motion with an old medium paintbrush.

21



21. When the wheels and chassis had been covered, a thin wash of white spirit was added, causing the powder to liquefy and collect around the tread detail and tyre manufacturer's logo. One advantage of using these powders and white spirit is that if you are not satisfied with the effect, the majority of the powder can be removed by immersing the model in water.



22. The figure was converted from an SS tank officer to represent an early war Wehrmacht panzer crewman. This was easily accomplished by removing the eagle from the figure's left sleeve, and carving away the SS runes from the collar boards. The belt buckle was removed and replaced with a new buckle made from lengths of stretched sprue. The leather strap was modelled from a binary modelling putty, which I purchased from the fantasy war games company, Games Workshop product code 99 21 99 99 005. The head was replaced with one from a Cromwell Models set of early war panzer crew.



23. The figure was undercoated in Halfords grey primer, and when the primer had thoroughly cured I airbrushed in the flesh areas with Humbrol GI Matt Flesh, darkened with a dab of 29 Matt Dark Earth. The face and hand were then masked with Tamiya Masking Tape, in preparation for airbrushing the uniform.



24. The uniform was painted in Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black. To shade the uniform the airbrushes reservoir was filled with a blend of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and X-17 Pink. The airbrush was aimed above and slightly to the left and a fine spray of paint was applied. Over some seconds the paint gradually accumulates on all the highlights. The airbrush was cleaned, and charged with XF-1 Flat Black. The figure was inverted and the same method used to spray the shadows. I gradually allowed the paint to build up in the shadow areas.



25.26.27. I paint most of my figures in Humbrol Enamels. I repainted the face in a thin coat of Humbrol Flesh 61. When the paint had become touch dry, shading the face could begin. I added a small amount of Humbrol White 34 to the flesh, and painted all the areas of highlight on the face such as the bridge of the nose, forehead and chin. When the highlights were touch-dry a paintbrush moistened with white spirit was used to re-liquefying the demarcation line between the two colours. With the paint returned to a near liquid state the paint could be carefully folded and blended to give a gradual transition between the colours. When the highlight session has been completed, the shadows can be added to the face. The same technique was again used but this time adding Humbrol German Camouflage Red Brown to the Flesh. The paint was applied into the shadow areas such as the eye sockets, hairline and side of the nose, and then carefully feathered in with a paintbrush moistened with white spirit. Be very careful at this stage not to contaminate the almost white highlights. I used to struggle painting the eyes in a 1:35 scale figure, but observation of people in day light revealed that the eye is just a dark line. Although a compromise, it looks considerably better than a startled "fried egg" look, if you lack practice in painting eyes on such a small figure!



Tech Guide

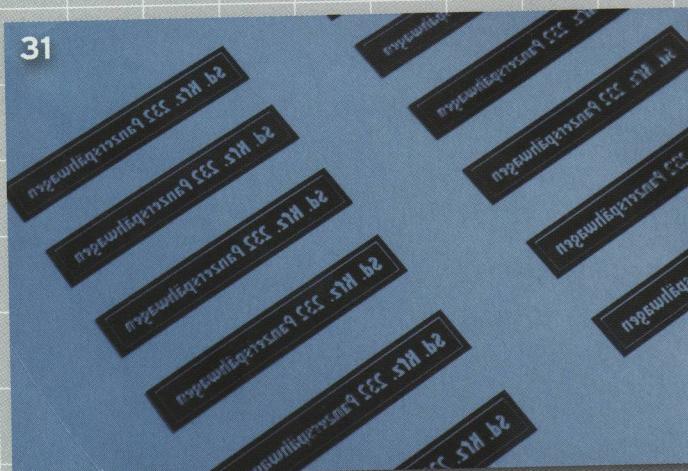
- ARMOUR MODELLING TECHNIQUES
Italeri Sd.Kfz.232 (6 Rad) • Kit No. 6433

28



28. When the acrylic paint had dried, I used a brush to apply a heavy coat of Humbrol Matt Cote. To achieve a convincing grass effect, you now have to work quickly. While the varnish was still wet, the base was placed on a sheet of newspaper and a liberal quantity of grass flock was sprinkled over the groundwork, making sure every part was covered. The base was turned upside down and given a tap so any excess flock collected in the newspaper can be later returned to the packet.

31



31. To finish the base, I decided to add a title plate. I used my iMac and Adobe Photoshop to produce the art work, although any PC with a graphics package will produce the same results. When setting the graphics package make sure that the black is composed of all four inks, this will ensure the printer produces a dense opaque black. When you have completed your title plate art work on the computer, reverse the lettering, so it reads back to front on the screen. The printer's paper tray was filled with a sheet of IBM Inkjet Transparencies product code SKU 24L4798, which is used in overhead projectors for business presentations. Take care to load the matt granular surface upwards. The title is then printed out.

34



34. Next a strip of good quality double sided tape is placed over the silver adhesive metal foil.

29



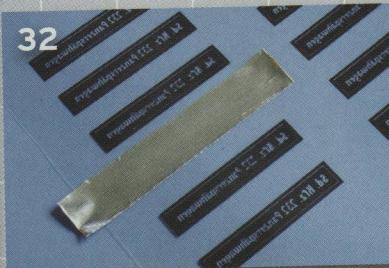
29. Grass flock has now been scattered onto the still wet Humbrol Matt Cote.

30



30. A drinking straw and a lot of puff was used to blow the individual flock fibre up to produce a realistic effect. I didn't treat the flock in the ruts so to give the impression of grass crushed by the vehicles tyres. Which were enhanced by a light dusting of the weathering powder I had used on the chassis.

32



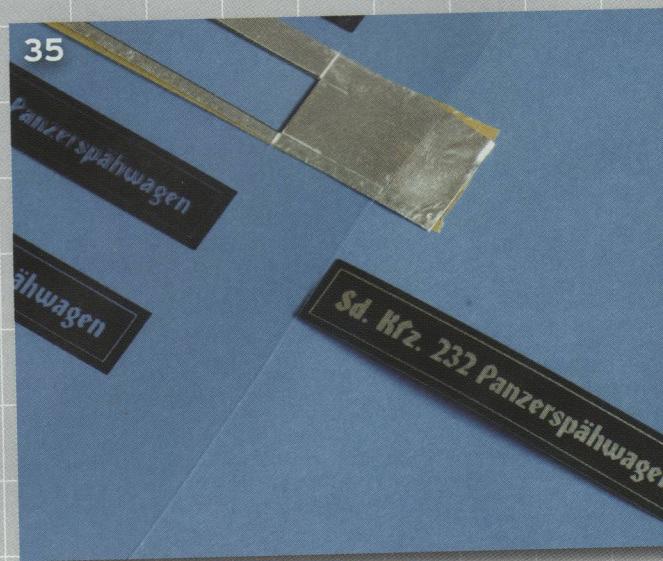
32.33. When the ink had dried, a strip of silver or brass adhesive metal foil is placed on the matt side, and carefully burnished down.

33



35. When the job is completed you should have silver lettering reading the correct way, on a shiny black background. A new blade was fitted to my craft knife and the title plate was carefully cut out. There may be a slight unsightly edge caused by the silver and double-sided tape sandwich but this can be removed by carefully running a black indelible marker around the edge. The double sided tape backing was removed, and the title plate was stuck into position on the front of the base.

35

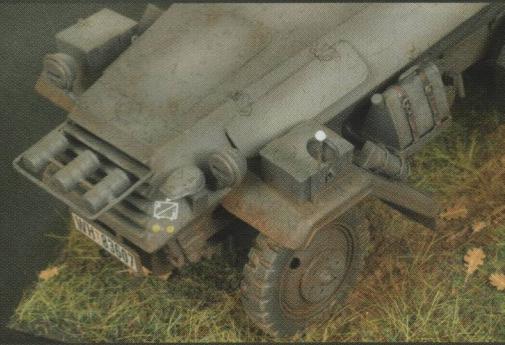




An old Warrior's resin SS tank officer figure was converted to represent an early Panzer crewman. Adding a figure helps to convey scale to the vehicle.



The graphite powder from a pencil lead has imparted a realistic metallic sheen to the gun barrels.



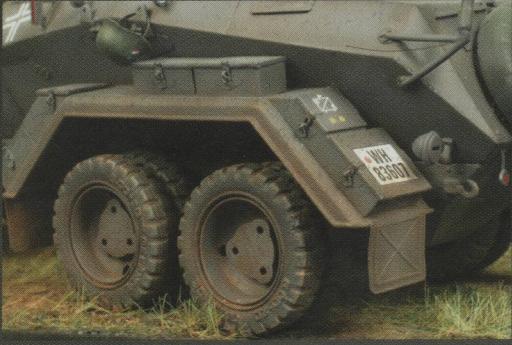
The three cylindrical objects in front of the radiator grille are smoke candles, which were scratchbuilt by the Author.



The stowage bin locking clasps and mudflaps came from the Eduard set designed for the old Historic Plastic Models kit.



The red edges to the turn signal arms help to add that much needed dash of colour to an otherwise drab military vehicle camouflage colour.



Mig Production Pigments are the ideal tool for tying the vehicle to the groundwork visually.

Modelspec

1:35 Italeri Sd.Kfz. 232 6 Rad

Kit No.6433

Materials

Injection moulded dark grey coloured styrene and waterslide decals for four different vehicles.

Paint and Pigments used

To finish Italeri's Sd.Kfz. 232 6 Rad I used Tamiya paints German Grey XF-63, Flat Black XF-1, XF-61 Dark Green, Red Brown XF-64, Flat Earth XF-52, Pink X-17 and X-20A Thinner to dilute the paint for use through an airbrush. To weather the armoured car I used MIG Europe Dust P028. Wear, rust and 'chipping' was simulated using artist's pencils CARAN d'ACHE Black 009, Flame Red 050 and Derwent Studio Blue Grey 68. Graphite powder ground from the lead of an ordinary pencil. Humbrol paints and white spirit were used to paint the figures.

When the model and figures had been painted a coat of Polly Scale Flat Finish was applied with an airbrush.

Accessories used

Eduard etched brass set 35 320 which was designed to fit the HPM Sd.Kfz. 231 kit. Eduard have now produced a dedicated set, designed to fit the Italeri kit.

Aber German Clamps & Clasps AB35A20. German Helmet liners, Chin Straps, and decal set AB35A69. Silver Adhesive tape purchased from Turtles of Croydon Art & crafts Department. Tel: 020 8688 5513.

References used

Die Gepanzerten Radfahrzeuge Walter J. Spielberger ISBN 3-87943-337-2.

German Heavy Reconnaissance Vehicles Horst Scheibert ISBN 0-88740-5215.

The Sd.Kfz. 232 6 Rad is unusual choice for a mainstream kit manufacturer and the kit is reasonably priced. Previously the armoured car has only been available as an ancient 1:40 kit by Midori, supplied with a clockwork motor! Recently, a 1:35 limited run injection moulded kit was marketed by the Czech company HPM. A resin and mixed media kit is also available from Sovereign 2000.

The fit of the various crew and engine access hatch covers were very poor. General soft edges and details, and lack of a jack and smoke candle rack.

Available from

Italeri Sd.Kfz 232 6 Rad, Eduard Etch Brass and Warrior figures purchased from LSA Model Mail Order Tel: 01273 705420.

Early War German Tank Crew heads purchased as part of a set for early war Panzer IV crew, from Cromwell Models, 0141 948 0255.

Aber AB35A69, MIG Europe Dust P028, Verlinden German Tank Crew Early Period set 677, and Vallejo Piedra Pomez Purchased from Historex Agents Tel: 01304 206720.

Rating 

Sd. Kfz. 232 Panzerspähwagen



SOUTH EAST ASIA

Sam Dwyer Builds AFV Club's much anticipated Centurion Mk5/1 Aust.

The Centurion tank began its design in 1943 when the British War Dept. put out a request to design a totally new tank, with a new philosophy, that of a 'universal' tank. This was a break in tradition, up till now the British had fielded what could be described as an 'infantry tank' and a 'cruiser tank'. The role of the infantry tank was to move slowly and support infantry, and the cruiser tank was lighter armoured and designed

to be faster so as to exploit breakthroughs. The Centurion was to encompass both these philosophies and be all things to all people. It was too late to see service in WW2, but by the time it went out of service in the 1970s, 80's or 90's, it had given sterling service to many armies.

Australia purchased in total 138 Centurions beginning in 1952, the order for the first of these being placed in 1949. These early orders were for Mk3 Cents;

later orders were filled by Mk5 standard Centurions, to replace vehicles damaged beyond repair in Vietnam. Centurions were used by the RAAC extensively in Vietnam, returning home for refit when our commitment ended in the early 1970s. The Cent was retired from service in the Royal Australian Armoured Corps in 1977, making way for the Leopard AS1.

Up until recently, all we have had to fill our Centurion kit needs was the wicked old Tamiya kit,

or the Academy re-boxing. This was a Mk3 Centurion, good if you want to do a Korean War Cent, but no good for much else. Legends produce some fine resin and PE update sets for the old Tamiya kit, but of course many of these are now about to be made redundant, with the release of AFV Club's Centurion Mk5/1 Aust. As an Australian myself, it's pretty fantastic to finally see a kit of this tough looking tank available in plastic. It's an Australian one!



SO, TO THE KIT.

AFV Club's kit represents a Vietnam era Centurion Mk5/1 Aust, with all of the common in-theatre modifications. It comes with separate rubber tyres, really well detailed rubber band style track, a small photo etched fret, a turned aluminium barrel with rifling, a turned .30 cal coax gun barrel, metal springs for the suspension, metal tow cables and my early sample included a resin crew commander figure.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction kicks off predictably with the suspension units. These can be made workable if assembled carefully. I chose to glue mine strongly together, fearing that the track tension would make the front and rear wheel lift off the ground (which it did!) AFV Club provides separate rubber road wheel tyres for the wheels. The rim of each wheel is moulded onto the tyre, and they incorporate great detail. The only real let down here is that the surface to apply glue to is relatively small; I just used CA glue in the end to ensure a solid bond. There's no real need here to go through the whole process of building the suspension, the accompanying images show all the detail that AFV Club have been able to include. I built up the suspension units, but left them off the hull, till I had the hull together.

The hull builds up from a stack of parts, all the engine deck and drivers and fighting compartment roofs are separate, but fit inside the hull tub perfectly. I replaced the engine deck grab handles, B29, from brass wire. I also filled the gap between parts C34 and

C37, believe me, there is NO gap here on the real vehicle! As is often the case with AFV Club kits, some of the parts suffered from a little warpage. This struck here on the 100-gallon fuel tank parts, but careful gluing aligned these parts. The fenders and all their details can be built as 2 separate assemblies, and then glued straight to each hull side. Once this was done, I cut down the front edges at an angle, as per shots of Cents in Vietnam. I added Evergreen L angle styrene strips to the front left fender; crews welded this angle iron on as a boot scraper. As you can see by all the shots, I didn't really add a great deal to the hull, AFV Club commendably have included a remarkable amount of detail on this kit!

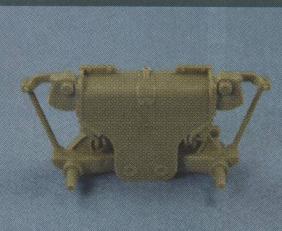
THE TURRET

The turret builds up well, and captures the look of the real thing perfectly, but I think AFV Club stuffed up the shape of the mantlet, good thing this is to be covered in a canvas cover, but more on that later. I improved the cast texture on the turret with a thin coat of Mr. Surfacer 1000, stippled lightly. I replaced all the moulded on tie downs with fine solder. By now, most people with even a passing interest in this kit will know that you need to do some surgery to the barrel to get the fume extractor to fit. I cut the tip of the barrel off, sleeved the fume extractor on, and then glued the tip back on. I also slightly reshaped the rebate for the ranging .50 cal MG, using a round dental bit.

One of the only gripes people have with this kit is that AFV Club doesn't provide a canvas mantlet



Completed road wheel. AFV Club include the road wheel rim on the rubber tyre part, but there is no compromise on detail.



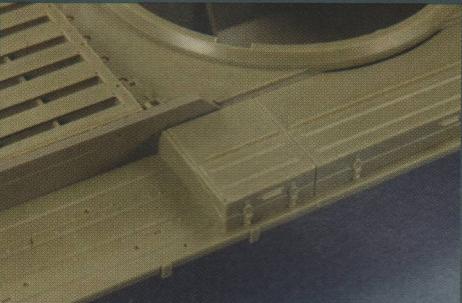
Hortman suspension assembly. Check out the delicate weld detail, and the working spring nestled within.



AFV Club accurately depict the different suspension units, central (above left) and front and rear (above right).



Exquisite detail on the sprocket and final drive housing.



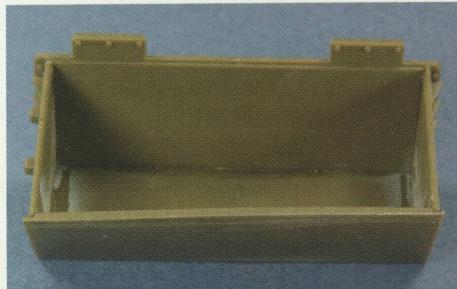
Fender bin detail. Just a few tiny gaps here to fill, nothing that can't be fixed with some Mr Surfacer.



Mantlet without canvas cover. Compare this shot to shots of the real mantlet without cover. The shape of the kit part isn't quite right, no problem if you cover it up with a mantlet canvas.



Turret casting marks. ESC stands for English Steel Company. Note the slight join seam to be removed.



100 gallon long range fuel cell. Note the nasty warp along the lower edge in this shot!



Mantlet cover added with Aves Apoxie Sculpt. Each fold was carefully added with a round tooth pick. The strengthening strips were added with thin sections of rolled out putty.



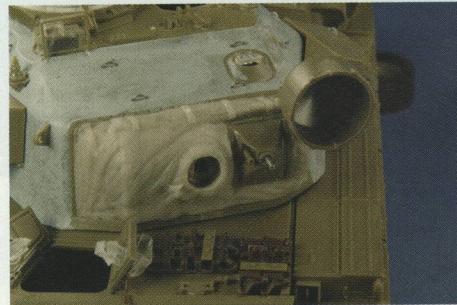
AFV Club provide many clear parts, which need careful masking before painting, but really add to the realism of the model.



Techstar wedding veil mesh has been used in place of the mesh supplied in the kit.



Turret basket, this side of the basket is the housing for the search light when not in use.



Mantlet. Note the coax .30 cal and the ranging .50 cal barrels.



Cupola. This is supplied as a totally clear part. The .30 cal MG has great detail, I added some belted ammo from Historex.



Boot mud scraper added to the cut down front fender.



Tow cables. In hindsight I should have replaced them with something softer, like titanium steel, or depleted uranium! OK, maybe just replaced them with Karaya soft copper cable from Accurate Armour.



Stowage straps added to the turret bits using Tamiya tape. Note replaced conduit and hutchie brackets on the lifting eyes.



Searchlight conduit replaced with thicker gauge lead solder.



Pigments ahoy! Every colour from the Mig Productions pigment range was used here to get a real multi hue effect.



After a coat of Tamiya enamel thinners, this is how the dried mud should look.



First shade of highlight coat. This highlight really brightens up the drab green. Note the different shade of the turret bin and road wheels.

cover. I've yet to find a shot of Centurions in use that doesn't have this cover. So I set about building one, using Aves' Apoxie Sculpt. This is a two part epoxy putty similar to Milliput. I started by rolling out little sausages of putty, and adding them around the edges of the mantlet area, then adding more and more putty to the centre. Folds were then added and textured with a round toothpick. I added a small patch just under the gun, with a corner just coming unstitched. Seams and strengthening ribs were added from thinly rolled putty strips. I then added a row of bolts to the mantlet cover-retaining strip.

AFV Club include mesh for the turret basket, its pretty thick, and not the right shape, so I replaced it with Techstars' wedding veil mesh, which looks like chicken wire. I

used the patterns included in the kit instructions. The turret basket itself is a delicate 6-part moulding and the nutbags among us would rebuild this from brass rod, but time constraints dictated that I use the kit parts. Atop each turret stowage bin should be stowage straps and I replicated these simply with strips of Tamiya masking tape. When joining the turret parts and smoothing the resulting join lines, some of the moulded on conduits for the smoke grenade launchers were damaged, so I replaced them both with fine lead solder. The searchlight cable was also added with a slightly thicker gauge solder. Shots show this cable coming from the slightly modified turret overpressure valve. AFV Club provide the distinctive .30 cal liner tray behind the commanders' cupola, but left out the AN/PRC-25

radio set. As Centurions were of British origin, they carried British radio harnesses, which weren't able to sync with the radios the Infantry used. An AN/PRC-25 was carried just behind the commander in the liner rack, so that the crew could liaise with accompanying infantry. I couldn't lay my hands on one of these in 1:35 scale; I couldn't even find the later version (but externally identical) AN/PRC-77 set anywhere, oh well, next time! The last detailing I added to the turret was a small sections of brass tube, to each of the four lifting eyes. On the real vehicle, these tubes held sections of tent pole, the tent poles held up shelter halves - or 'hutchies' used as a sun and rain shade by crews.

The last thing added to the model before paint was the tow cables. AFV Club give these to you

in the kit as twisted steel cable, just like the real thing. These cables, well even after annealing them 3 or 4 times, they still don't want to bend, they just tend to spring back to straight. I used CA glue and a lot of swearing to hold them in place.

PAINTING

Aussie Cents in Vietnam were painted in green, green or green. Well not quite true, there is some evidence to suggest that a disruptive camouflage pattern was used, but only very rarely, and only by maybe 1 or 2 vehicles. The best match for 'Lustreless Olive Drab' used to be Humbrol Authentic colour's French Artillery Green - sadly no longer available. I've found the next best thing is Gunze Sangyo's H303. Of course, Murphy's Law stepped in here



Wiping off the excess from the upper hull. I wanted to show areas of wear, crew movement would work the dust into nooks and crannies.



Wiping mud off the turret top. Once a cloth has been used to remove the majority, Q tips or a small stiff brush can be used to remove excess from harder to reach places.

◀ (nothing to do with the Editor!) and not a single jar of H303 was available anywhere in town! So, the next best thing is Tamiya's XF67 NATO Green. So, after a couple of light coats of Tamiya Grey surface primer (Please Mr Tamiya release this in a larger spray pack!) I gave the model a blast with NATO Green. Mercifully this coat of paint didn't show any areas that needed filling or attention. I picked out one of the turret bins, and a few road wheels with Tamiya XF61

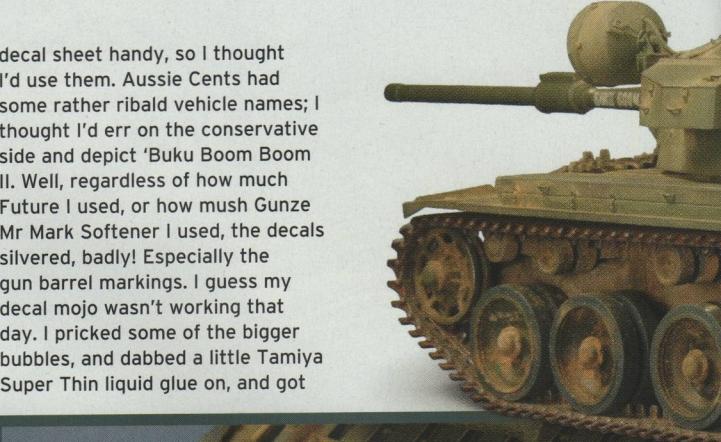
Dark Green. Parts from stores in Australia were supplied in the old British camouflage paint colour and there are shots of Cents in SVN with odd coloured parts. I think it really breaks up the model a little and adds some visual interest too. The road wheels were painted with Vallejo 862 Black Grey then the model was given a solid coat of Future floor polish in readiness for decals.

AFV Club provide decals for 4 vehicles, but I had Mouse House's

decal sheet handy, so I thought I'd use them. Aussie Cents had some rather ribald vehicle names; I thought I'd err on the conservative side and depict 'Buku Boom Boom II'. Well, regardless of how much Future I used, or how much Gunze Mr Mark Softener I used, the decals silvered, badly! Especially the gun barrel markings. I guess my decal mojo wasn't working that day. I pricked some of the bigger bubbles, and dabbed a little Tamiya Super Thin liquid glue on, and got



"Buku Boom Boom II" is what you get when the 20 pdr gun fires a canister round at point blank range. The Authors scratch built mantlet cover looks totally realistic under a coat of paint.



The engine deck has been used as a convenient place to store spare water jerry cans. Note how the colours have been varied to add some visual interest.



Another of the South East Asia modifications was the fitment of a rack for spare ammunition boxes for the commanders .30 cal machine gun. Including the box attached to the gun that is 2600 rounds!



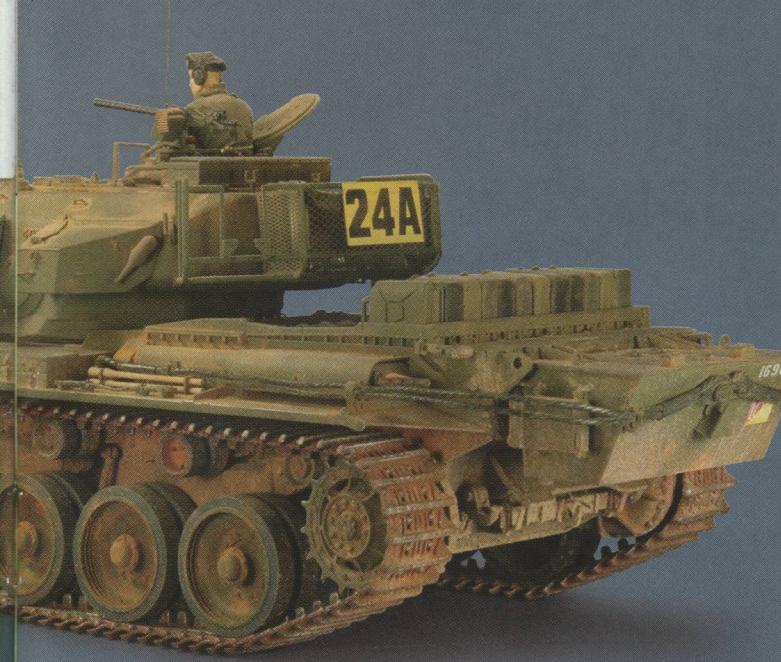
Weathering powders are the perfect medium for replicating ground dirt and dust. The Author mixed up his own colours using most of the Mig Productions range of pigments.



The large 24 Alpha call sign on the turret basket made recognition easier for the accompanying infantry and other vehicles in the heat of battle.



The spare road wheels held onto the hull plate were part of the modifications carried out on the Centurions operating in South Vietnam. Note the realistic metallic sheen on the edge of the hull plates.



rid of most of the silverying. The model then got a couple of coats of Gunze H20 Flat Clear. Now the weathering fun can begin. Firstly I mixed up a shade lighter than the base coat, using the base colour plus Tamiya XF4 Yellow Green. This was thinned then carefully sprayed in the centre of panels, and on the flat horizontal surfaces of the model, to fade the paint.

The dust and dirt in Vietnam tended to be red in hue, and by the looks of it, got in everywhere. Shots of any vehicle in Vietnam shows vehicles literally stained red with this dust. So I knew that I'd have to go hard with the pastels and pigments. I opened every jar of Mig pigments I have, and had at the model with a wide flat brush. I just jammed the powders into every nook and cranny in the running gear, then sealed it all with a misted coat of Tamiya enamel thinners. This doesn't attack the acrylic paint at all, and provides a

fixative for the dry powders. I did the same with the upper, except I wiped the powders off with a dampish rag. I wanted areas of the model that the crew would walk on, or that would get wear of some kind, to show this red dust only really accumulating in the corners. At the rear of the vehicle I flicked wet pigments with an old toothbrush onto the model, to get a spattered effect. I wanted a slight sheen to the model too, once again specially in places of wear. It's not very hi tech, but I wiped forehead grease onto the model with my finger! Sounds icky I know, but it really works! One last step was to add some metallic shine to the model, do achieve this I rubbed some graphite shavings into the paintwork.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Stowage was added from wherever I could find it. The plastic Australian pattern jerry cans

on the back deck were from Armour Bits, the 20mm Vulcan canon ammo box and the folded cots in the turret basket were from Tamiya's modern vehicle accessories. The steel jerrys were also Tamiya. I painted the vehicle callsign on the jerrys and ammo box in the basket. These sorts of things would have been 'borrowed' by other vehicle crews, so were often tagged by the rightful owners to stop this happening.

The crew commander figure came with the Centurion kit as a special first edition, and isn't bad. His beret is bashed correctly for an RAAC crewmember, and he's wearing headphones over the top of it (common for RAAC members who didn't want to give up their berets). The driver, well he is a Dr Frankenstein like creation. The torso is a WWII German fellow with all the rank insignia removed, arms from some other figure, and a Hornet head. The CVC (combat vehicle crewman) helmet is Verlinden, hollowed out to accept the Hornet head. The crew and the stowage were painted with Humbrol enamels and artist oil paint.

CONCLUSION

This was a fantastic model to build, with virtually no issues relating to construction or kit accuracy. Maybe I'm blinded by the fact that it's an Australian subject released by a major kit manufacturer, in styrene.. NAAAH! ■

Modelspec

AFV Club Centurion Mk5/1

Kit No.35100

Kits used

Tamiya modern vehicle accessories
Mouse House Australian Cents in SVN Decals MAD602
Hornet HHI bare heads
Armour Bits Australian Pattern jerry cans

Paints used

Tamiya XF 67 NATO Green
Tamiya XF4 Yellow Green
Vallejo 862 Black Grey
Gunze H20 Flat Clear
Citadel miniatures Bolt Gun Metal
Mig Productions pigments
Future floor polish

Reference

Books

There really is only 1 book worth getting on Australian Centurion tanks, Shane Lovel's excellent: Military Briefs #3 - Australian Centurions in Vietnam ISBN 0-9577586-2-6

Websites

Outstanding veterans photo's page
<http://members.tripod.com/~hydteft/ARSVN.htm>
Digger History site
<http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-armour/allied/centurion.htm>

✓ Finally an Australian subject, and finally a replacement for the old Tamiya Centurion.
Great detail, even straight from the box builds into an accurate Aussie Cent.

✗ No mantlet cover!
Odd shape to mantlet.
Slightly weak join between wheel and tyre on road wheel.
Having to chop the beautiful turned barrel to fit the fume extractor.

Available from

All good model shops.

Rating

AFV Club have captured the look of this formidable fighting machine.





References - Puckapunyal Centurion



▲ Centurion dozer tank. Despite being outside and exposed to the elements, this one is in good condition.

To tie in with our AFV Club Centurion build we include a selection of handy reference photos to help all those wanting to add that extra detail. Words & photos by Sam Dwyer.

With the Centurion replaced by the Leopard AS1 in Australian service in 1977, the Centurion fleet was retired from service, and effectively placed in mothballs. The entire fleet was then sold off, many being purchased by Tim Vibert from Combat Vehicles Australia. If you have ever seen a movie called 'Courage Under Fire' with Meg Ryan and Denzel Washington, then you've seen some of Tim's Cents. He leased them to the production team, who convincingly converted them to replica M1A1 Abrams. Tim eventually sold off most of his Cent fleet, it's not uncommon to see these tanks all over the place

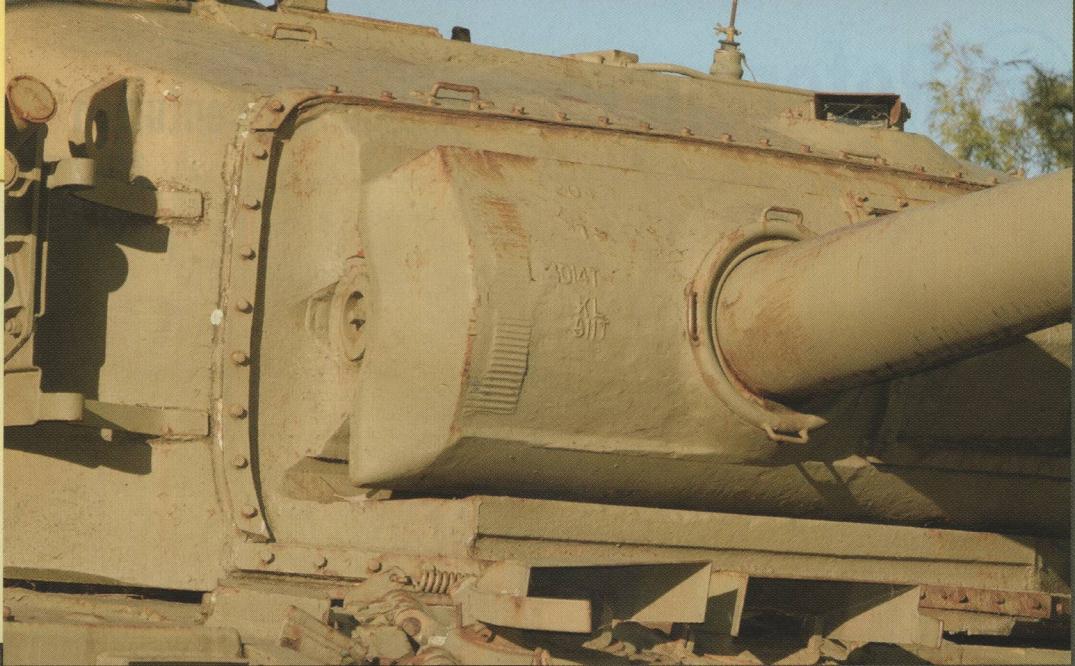
in South Eastern Australia! The army placed Centurions as gate guardians at many bases; there are at least 6 in or around Puckapunyal army base, just outside Seymour, Victoria. Most of the vehicles in the following shots, unless otherwise noted, are taken at the Army Tank Museum at Pucka. They are in varying states of repair, or disrepair. The Cents in the Mitchell wing at the Australian War Memorial are unique as one still carries its Vietnam era modifications (the last to do so) and the other is in pristine nick. I hope these accompanying shots are of some use to modellers, they were taken with the modeller in mind. ■



▼ Loaders hatch.

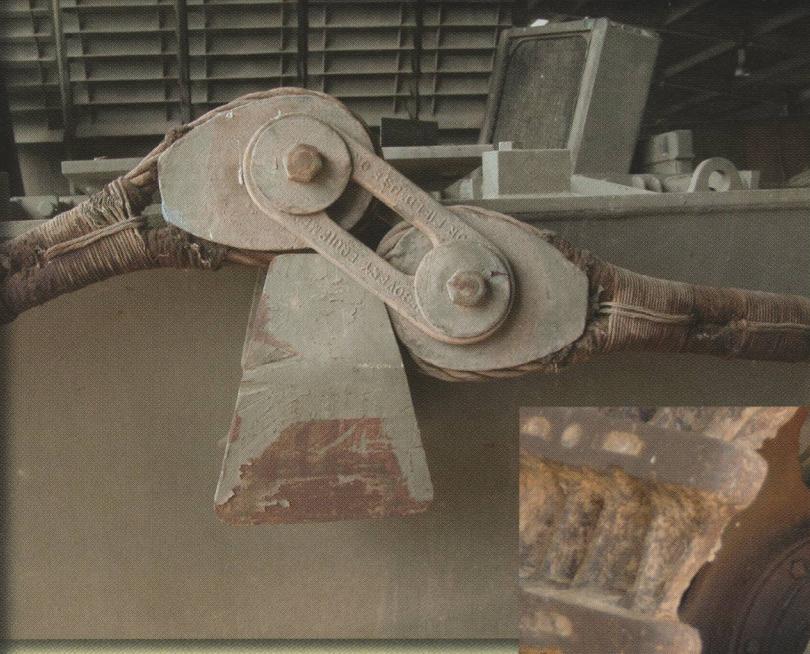


▼ Tow hawser bracket on the rear of the external 100 gallon fuel cell.



▼ Tow hawser bracket on the rear of the external 100 gallon fuel cell.

▲ Mantlet, without the canvas cover. Compare this to the AFV Club kit, the kit parts are misshapen.



▼ Drain tap for the 100 gallon fuel cell. This may have been a post war fitting, I cant imagine it would have been fitted in combat at any rate.

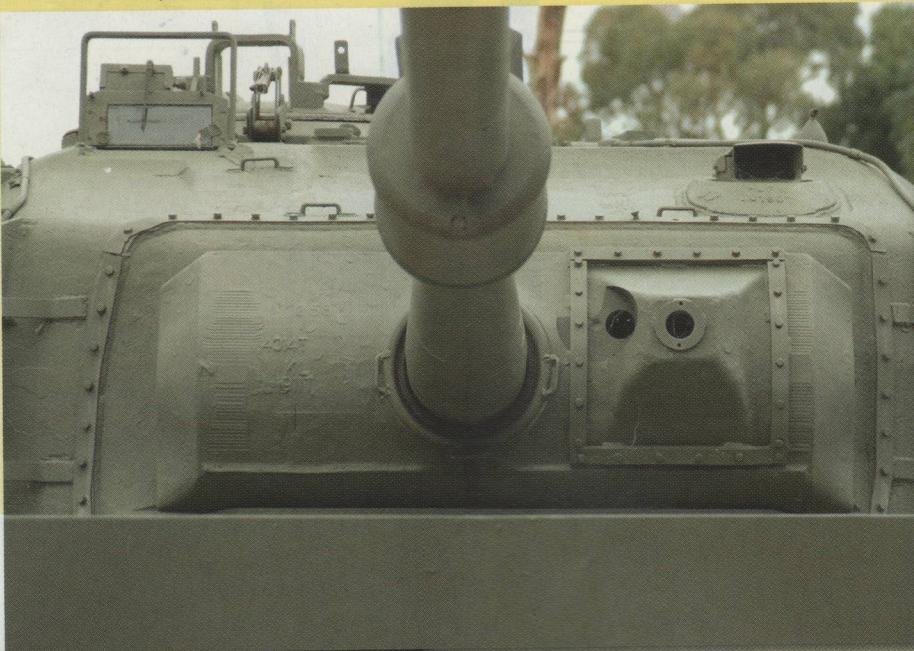


▼ Idler mount and track tensioner. Note all the oil leaching out.

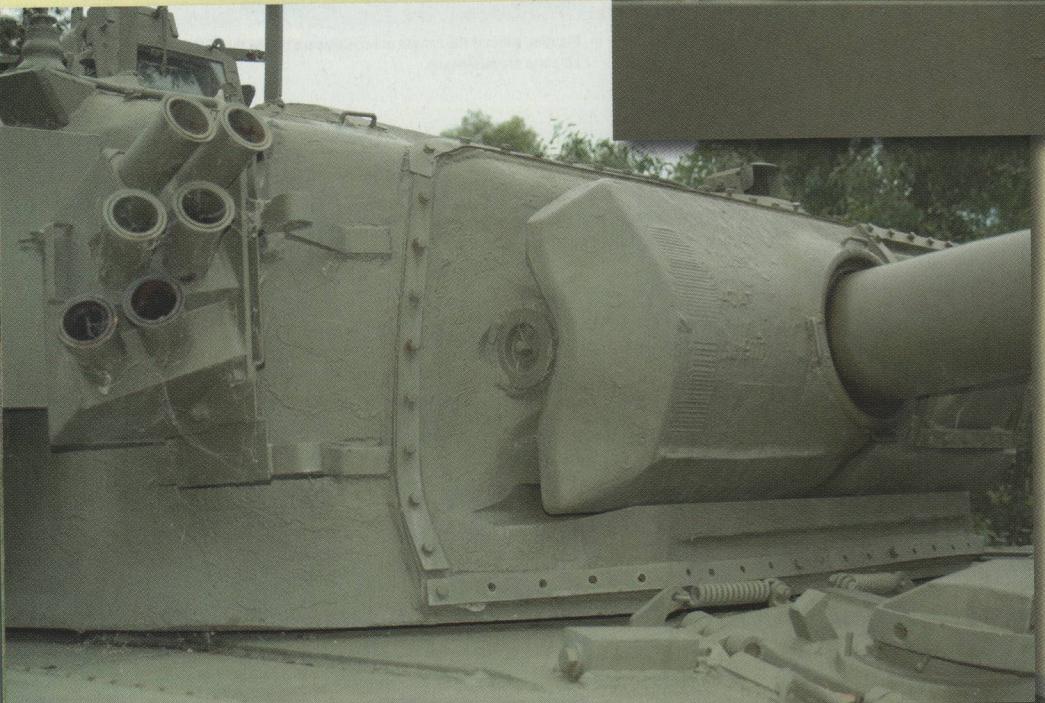




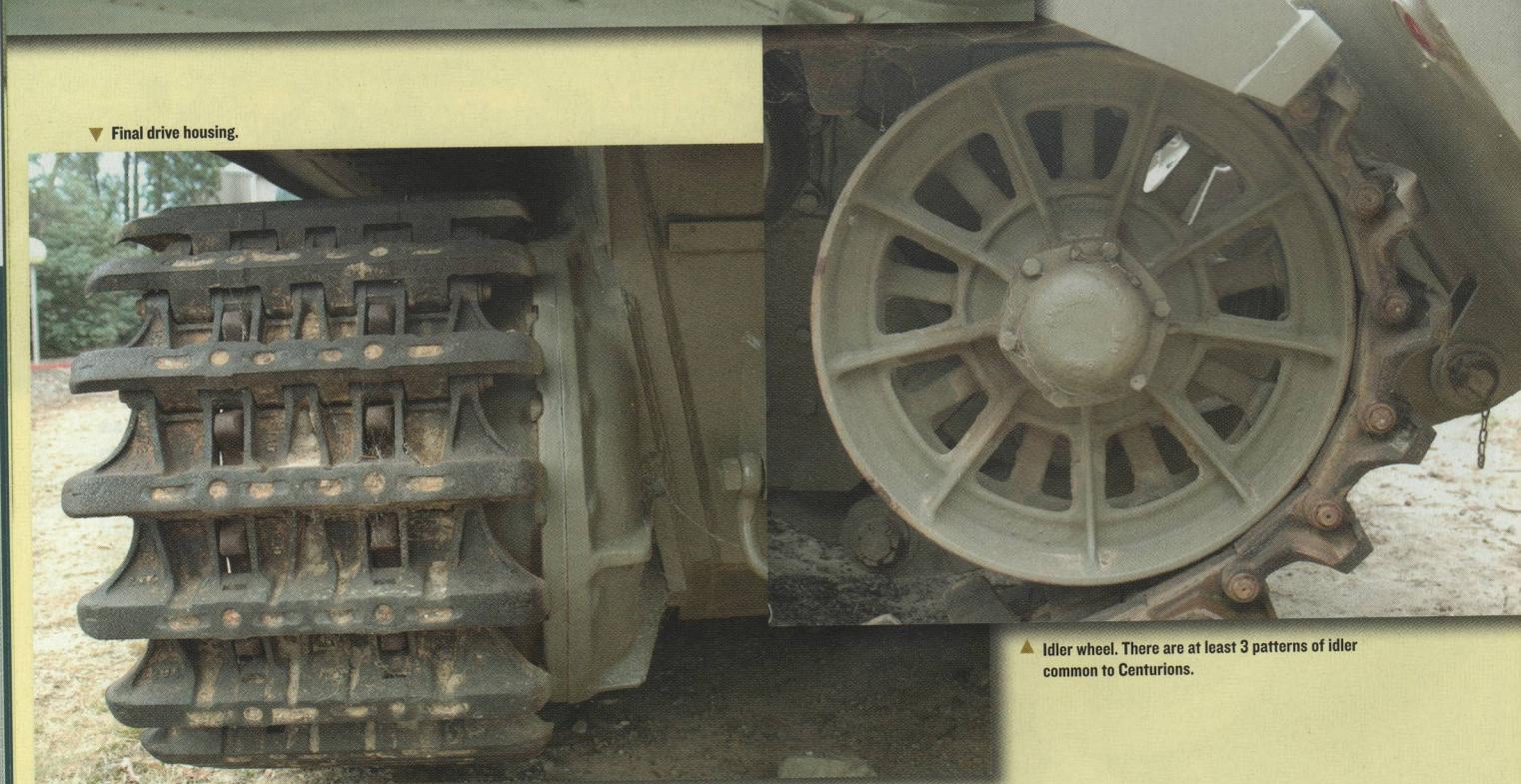
References - Puckapunyal Centurion



▼ Mantlet, without the canvas cover. Compare this to the AFV Club kit, the kit parts are misshapen.

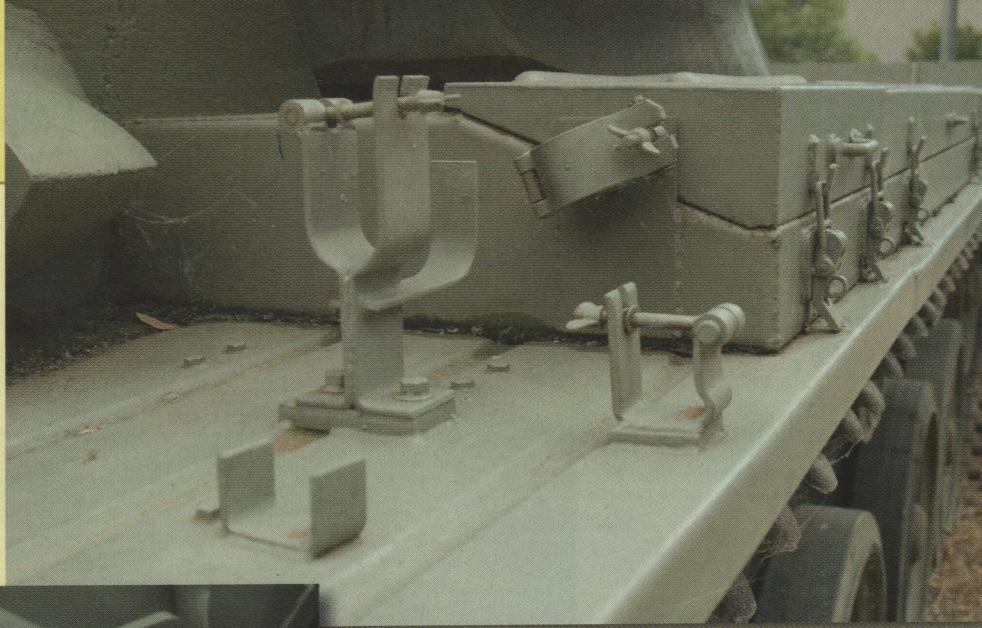


▲ Front on shot of mantlet. Note the tie down loops either side of the main gun tube.

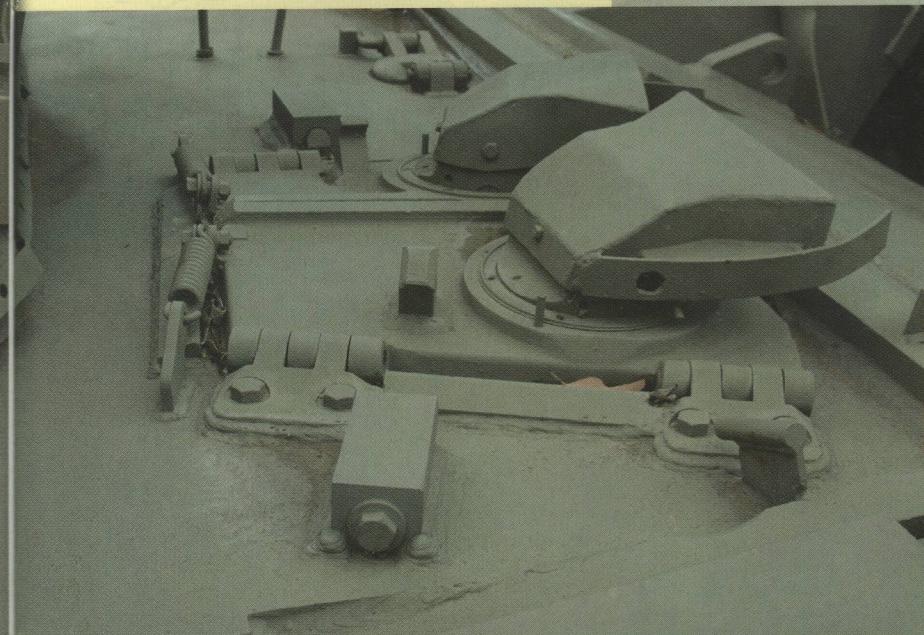


▼ Final drive housing.

▲ Idler wheel. There are at least 3 patterns of idler common to Centurions.



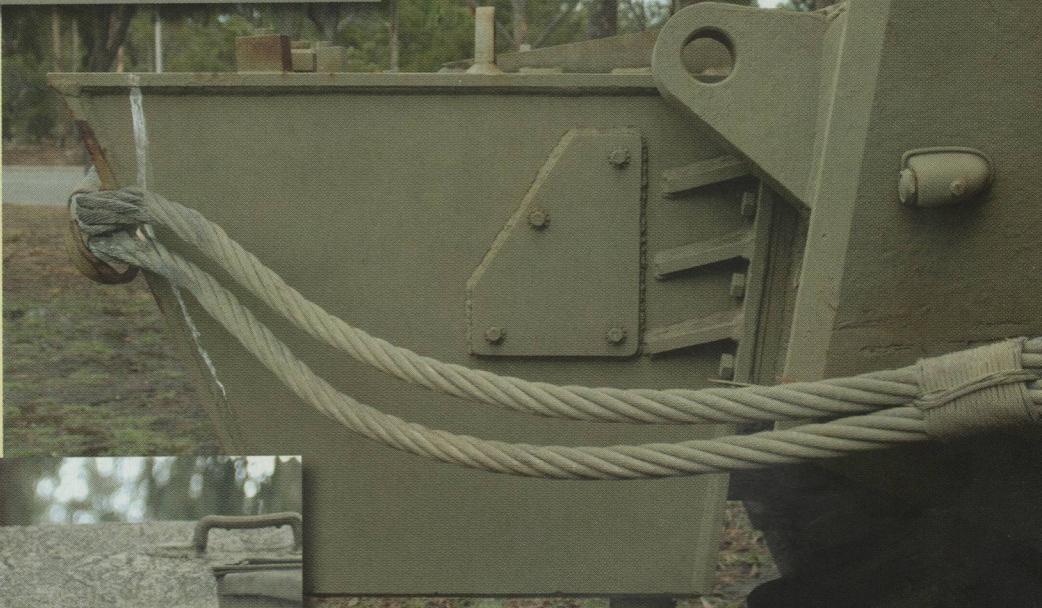
▼ Drivers hatches. Note the welds holding everything together. Note also this hull plate is only 1 piece, not 2 as some would believe.



▲ Empty tool brackets. Many of the Centurions used in Vietnam had engineer stakes welded to the stowage bins for extra strength.



▼ Bracket on external fuel cell. No idea what it's for.



▼ Turret casting number. ESC Stands for English Steel Company.





References - Puckapunyal Centurion

► Look at the sorry state of the mantlet cover on this Centurion.

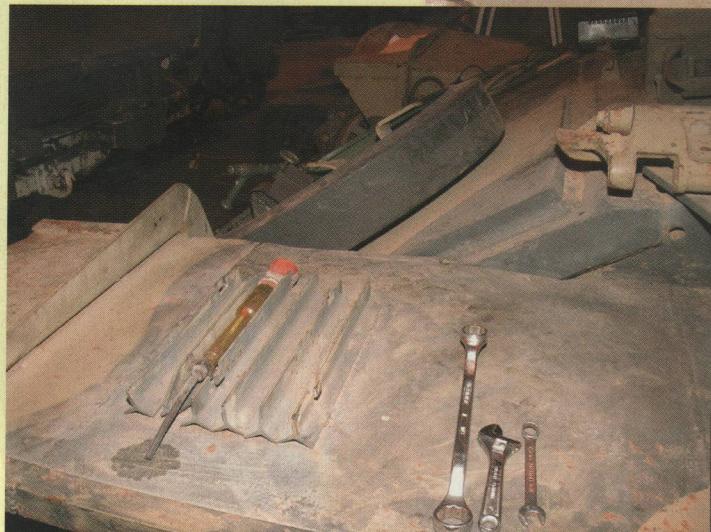
▼ Holes in the rear of the fume extractor collar.

▼ Close up of the mantlet dust cover and the smoke grenade launcher.



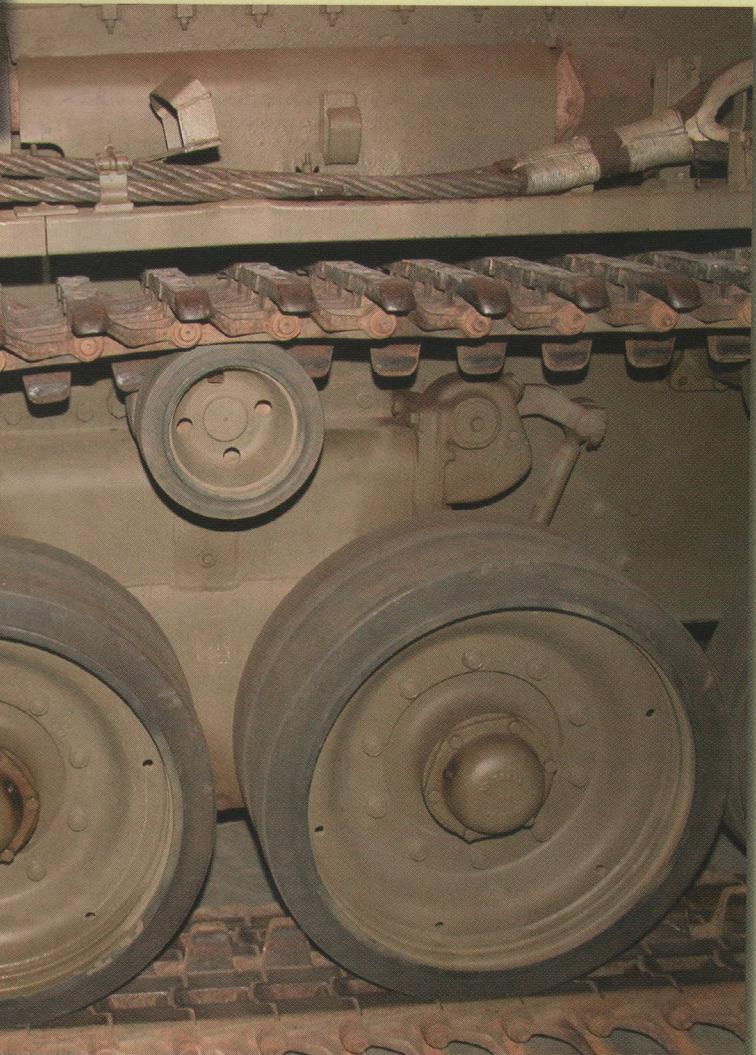


▼ Boot scraper, being used to hold screw drivers!



▲ 169116 is AWM's second Cent. It looks brand new.

▼ 169108 is in very good condition, note very little oil leaking out of the hub seals.





ROAD STOP

Dean Allison recreates a famous Normandy photo using Tamiya's Panther G.

Everyone has something which ignites his or her interest in building a particular vehicle, sometimes it's the vehicle itself other times it's a photograph that captivates your imagination. The latter is usually the start of my projects and this build was no exception. Whilst thumbing through one of my Squadron Signal books looking for nothing in particular my interest was drawn to a photo I've seen many times before. Page 41 of the Squadron title 'Panther in Action' has a photo of an early Panther G with a number of not different, but certainly unusual features. Further research identified the tank as most likely being a member of an independent Panther Battalion of the 24th Panzer Regiment (I

24) attached to the 116th Panzer Division, Normandy June/July 1944. I spent the next four to six weeks researching this Battalion using books and most helpful of all, the Internet especially the Missing Lynx's website via their search function.

Eventually I had enough information to start the build, although one vital piece was missing, the vehicle number. The only digit visible in the photo is the number six and through my research I had been able to piece some information together which I thought might shine a light on this elusive part of the puzzle. I 24 had a particular way of applying their turret numbers; they would put the full three-digit number on the turret side, (company, platoon, and vehicle number in the platoon).

They only put a two-digit-number on the rear of the turret; (platoon and vehicle number) the company number being replaced by a shaped symbol on the turret escape hatch. The symbol for the 2nd company was a white circle, closer scrutiny of the hatch itself revealed what I believe is the tip of another number hidden behind the open escape hatch. I superimposed different numbers onto the turret of a model Panther and finally decided the one which fitted the profile best, was a number 4 using the type and size of numbers employed by I 24. The resulting turret number being 264, I was initially suspicious about the reality of a sixth platoon until I discovered 24th Panzer did operate with a sixth platoon during their time in Russia earlier in the war. Anyone

interested in how the German numbering system works should consult the excellent Panzer Colours II book published by Squadron Signal.

CONSTRUCTION

The Tamiya Panther G Early was chosen as the base kit and since all the hatches were open I was going to need something to put inside it. I opted for the Tank Workshop partial interior not because it's the best (CMK has that crown) but because it was the cheapest option, i.e. I already had one. The interior was fitted without any major problems and painted then weathered prior to the hull halves being sealed. As previously stated the Tank Workshop partial interior isn't as crisp and sharp as the CMK one but once sealed and painted

in the kit it's hard to differentiate between the two.

The next step was the zimmerit, to make this will need white superfine Milliput, Tamiya zimmerit tool No7 from their zimmerit tool set and a line scribing tool invented by my good friend Dave Parker, which I made from a 0.3mm piece of white Evergreen plastic sandwiched between but protruding out of two pieces of 1mm plastic card. The resulting tool can be made in various sizes as needed and used to make the vertical and horizontal lines of the second stage of the zimmerit pattern.

The Milliput was massaged with water prior to application until it developed a soft but sticky consistency. Don't try and apply this wet or you'll end up with a patchy coat which will not take the zimmerit pattern very well. The surface of the model where the zimmerit was to be applied was roughened with some coarse sandpaper to give a good anchor for the sticky Milliput, which was applied with a small non porous spatula to a thickness of about 1mm, although this doesn't have to be exact at this stage. Only work on one or two panels at a time and mix an amount of Milliput accordingly. Once the Milliput had been applied I used the Tamiya zimmerit tool number 7 and pulled it vertically down the panel in a straight line, ensuring I kept the teeth in contact with the plastic of the kit. This process does two things, first it creates a uniform

scale thickness of paste and secondly it provides the first stage of the zimmerit pattern.

The Milliput will begin to firm up between 20 to 30 minutes after this stage, which is when you need to use the scribing tool to draw the vertical and horizontal lines over the first stage pattern made by the zimmerit tool.

Some things to remember, make sure you have your reference to hand, keep your tools clean, be patient about applying the lines and make sure you know where you want the zimmerit removed for the application of tools and battle damage. This last stage is done about 10 or 20 minutes after the lines are drawn or when the Milliput is very firm but not hard, it should almost peel from the model at this stage. After all of the zimmerit had been replicated and left to harden overnight, all of the most obvious weld seems were replaced using Milliput and a homemade tool fabricated for me by another good friend, Lee Lloyd.

With the zimmerit applied, it was

time for the etch brass, I chose

Aber because it offers the best

reproduction of the track hangers

and side supports I've seen. I

soldered everything I could

together as I detest superglue and

use it only when I have to. The side

hangers had their etch bolt heads

replaced with ones made from

0.3mm plastic card using a punch

and die, the same process was

used to replicate the bolts used to

attach the exhaust shrouds. One

►



The driver figure was made up from a Royal Models body, a Hornet head and scratchbuilt arms. He was painted using Humbrol enamels.



A feature common to the Independent Panther Battalion of the 116th Panzer Division was the fitting of two spare roadwheels on the turret rear quarters, this has been replicated using resin wheels from MK-35.



From this low angle view we can see how realistic the dried mud looks on the lower hull and running gear. The author used real dirt ground to a fine powder.



The personal effects and clutter on the rear engine deck all helps to bring some life to the scene. Note the small white circular marking on the escape hatch, which is explained in the text.



The author removed the moulded on detail from the inside of the drivers and radio operators hatches and super-detailed them with a combination of plastic card, rod and parts from an Aber etched brass set.

"The whole kit was painted using White Ensign's new range of enamel armour paints "



The hull number '264' was painted on with the aid of Eduard's masking templates, weathering was undertaken using oil paint washes and Mig Productions pigments.



From the photo the author based the model on, it could be seen that the exhaust pipes had extensions fitted, to possibly eliminate the problem of flames shooting out the ends from un-burnt fuel igniting.



Note how only the areas of the roadwheel tyres free from dust are the actual parts in contact with the tracks, this is a detail often overlooked.



The Tamiya drive sprockets were replaced with highly detailed, but expensive items from Artisan Mori. The author did confess that once fitted were indistinguishable from the kit items.

of the idiosyncrasies of this unit was the removal of the last pair of track hangers from the rear sides relocating them to the turret sides. The unit also fixed jerrycan holding frames to the inside of the stowage bins most commonly seen on some Panther A's, these were scratch built using Evergreen plastic strip; the jerrycans are Italeri items.

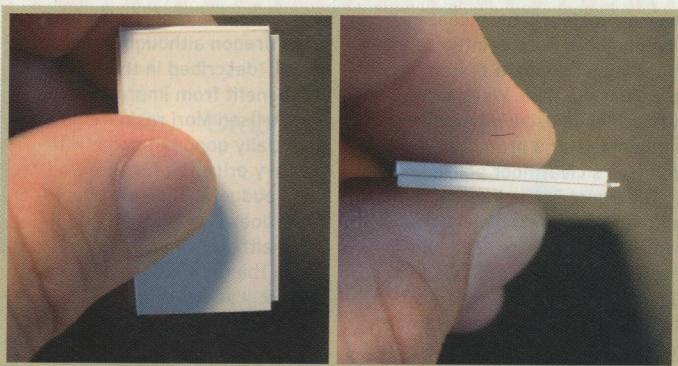
The barrel cleaning-rod tube is an excellent Elefant item with scratchbuilt brackets made from brass, taking care to also add the strips which held the tube in its original position on the drivers side of the hull. The exhausts appeared on the photo to have a form of extended pipe attached to their ends, further research revealed this was possibly a field workshop method of suppressing the telltale flash often created by un-burnt fuel igniting in the exhaust. These were replicated using appropriate sized aluminium tube.

Another common feature of the I 24 Panthers was the attachment of spare road wheels to the side of the turret. These wheels were attached with three bolts drilled through, as opposed to welded to the turret sides and the wheels on this particular vehicle were the early D type. I initially thought about stealing two wheels from one of my Dragon Panther D kits until I happened upon a set of three spare wheels in resin produced by MK35.

These were painted separately from the vehicle and attached using Grandt Line threaded nuts.

The commander's cupola in the Tamiya kit is OK, but lacks any fine detail to its inside; it was replaced with an excellent example made by Artisan Mori expensive. But worth it. The kit barrel was replaced with an aluminium one from Elefant with a muzzle cover made from Duro putty, the barrel securing chain was stolen from a willing Dragon Panther kit. I removed the inside detail from the driver and radio operators hatches and remade these from rod, plastic card and Grandt Line bolts, at the same time I fabricated the delicate hinge mechanism using the Aber parts and thin fuse wire. The same process was applied to the inside of the escape hatch which is particularly lacking in fine detail, Aber provide some bits but to do a good job I needed to get the plastic card out again. All exterior handles were replaced with brass rod bent to shape and the prominently missing front hatch stop strips were added to the hull using the ever-dependent evergreen plastic.

The tracks are the Friulmodel white metal track painted and polished where appropriate to replicate normal use. I also used a pair of Artisan Mori drive sprockets as the Tamiya items are lacking fine inside detail, on reflection you



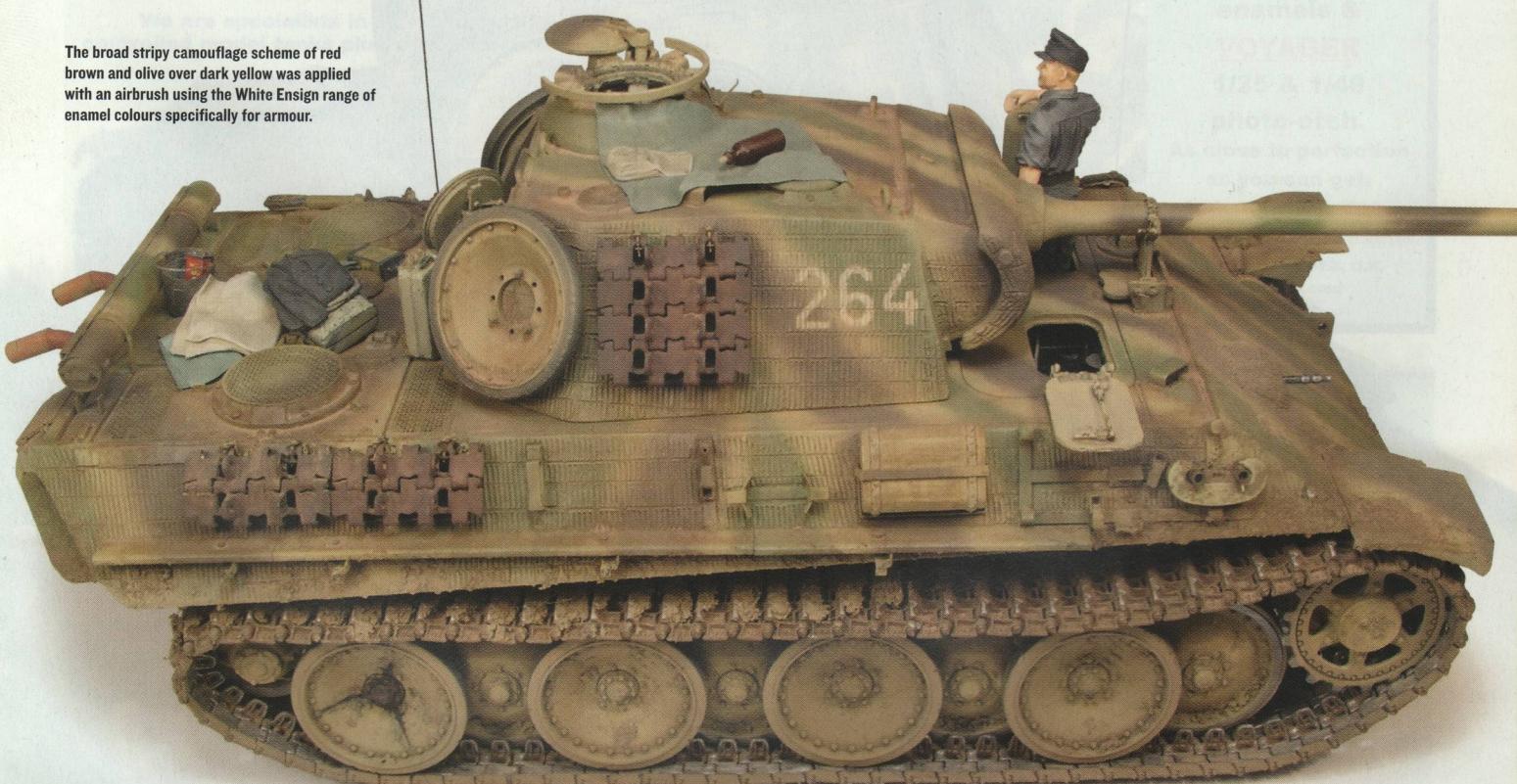
To replicate the distinctive pattern in the Milliput zimmerit the author made up some simple tools from plastic card. By sandwiching a piece of 0.3mm card between pieces of 1mm thick card, leaving the 0.3mm card protruding slightly made the perfect tool for embossing the Milliput with the grid pattern common to Panthers.

really can't see much of them when the tracks are in place. The road wheels were painted off the model using the versatile Royal Model wheel template and the rear idler is a converted Italeri item as the kit part has completely the wrong size and detail. Most early Panther G's had the small idler wheel most commonly found on the Panther D and A's. The Tamiya kit idler has the detail of the late idler but is too small, Friulmodel make an excellent replacement for a late Panther whilst Clipper Models make an equally excellent early idler although these can also be found in the new Dragon Panther kits. If all else fails you can convert the old Italeri idler as I did.

PAINTING/GROUNDWORK

The whole kit was painted using White Ensign's new range of enamel armour paints, which I picked up at model show and thought I'd give them a go. They have the same good and bad traits of any other enamel paint and spray much like the more familiar Humbrol brand. The main difference is the colours, which in this case are purposely designed German WWII armour colours and very good in my opinion although they still needed to be lightened for scale. The camouflage pattern of the I 24 Panthers was very specific and consisted of broad angled vertical band of alternate rotbraun and olivegrün stripes

The broad stripy camouflage scheme of red brown and olive over dark yellow was applied with an airbrush using the White Ensign range of enamel colours specifically for armour.



over a dunkle gelb base coat.

The numbers were painted using stencils by Eduard, a system I now use all of the time. Weathering was achieved using oils and Mig pigments after a protective coat of Johnson's clear floor polish.

The figure in the Panther is a Royal Models example with a replacement Hornet head and two-part scratchbuilt arms. The figure on the groundwork is a scratchbuilt item using a Hornet head and a pair of Dragon legs and both were painted using Humbrol enamels. I made all the blankets from Magic Sculpt, with a steel bucket and cans from Pol Models and an Artisan Mori tankers jacket. The base was constructed with the usual railway models bits and pieces, a Tamiya telegraph pole and a fence made with cocktail sticks and fuse wire. The dirt on the tracks and main areas of groundwork were made from real dirt ground in a pestle and mortar mixed with some acrylic gel, Vallejo paint and a little white glue.

CONCLUSION

I'm sure you have probably realised from the article I get my modelling kicks from the research and build rather than the painting and I enjoyed this project for those very reasons. It was my first attempt at Panther Zimmerit and I'm happy with the result, as it's very different from the pattern's commonly found on panzer IVs. The Tamiya kit needs no explaining and holds up well in comparison

with the more recent offerings from Dragon although there are areas, (described in the text) that will benefit from improvements. The Artisan Mori resin items are especially good but come with a heavy price tag for those on tight budgets. The Tank Workshop resin does enough to justify its price although if you want real detail the CMK interiors are hard to beat. I've never managed to use more than 60% of any Aber set and often feel a little annoyed at the way Aber distribute items between different frets for the

same vehicle, the Panther hull and side support sets being two of the worst offenders. For the price I really can't find anything to complain about the Elefant items and their barrel cleaning tubes are a gem, the plus models items are universal and well worth seeking for that extra little detail they give a kit. I really enjoyed this project and although it wasn't built to be put into an article, I felt the process was worth sharing, I hope you agree. ■

Photos by Lee Lloyd



MEET THE AUTHOR

My name is Dean Allison I'm 39yrs old, and live with my wife Angela and daughter Imogen in North Durham, UK. I came back into the hobby about 10yrs ago in which time I've spent enough on kits and accessories to buy a 2nd home. For me modelling is a great escape. I primarily built German armour although I've developed an interest in allied subjects over the past 2yrs; I also build the occasional aircraft (just for respite). I've never built out of the box, preferring to use kits as a base for whatever I feel will add to the finished model although given some of the recent dragon releases I think an out of the box build won't be far away. I'm a member of IPMS Tyneside and feel very privileged to be counted in a group of in my opinion very talented modellers. I think my modelling has improved significantly over the years in no small part to the company I keep and would recommend joining a club to any modeller regardless of their skill level. I enjoy writing articles when I feel I can pass on something of interest to the reader, I also feel it improves my own modelling skills. ■

Modelspec

Tamiya Panther G Early

kit No.35170

References

Germany's Panther Tank the Quest for Combat Supremacy.

Thomas L Jentz, Shiffer books, ISBN 0887408125. Achtung Panzer No4 Panther, Jagdpanther and Brumbar, ISBN 4499226716.

Panzer Tracts No 5-2 Panzerkampfwagen Ausfuehrung A.

Thomas L Jentz and Hilary L Doyle, ISBN 0974486213. Panther in Action, Squadron Armour No11. ISBN 0897470443.

Panzer Colours II. Bruce Culver, ISBN 0897470699. Various Internet sites, too many to list.

Materials

Tamiya Panther G early kit TAM35170

Tank Workshop partial interior set 2038

Friulimodel Panther track ALT 08

Aber Panther hull set AB35024,

side support set AB35024

Artisan Mori Panther cupola MGP07, Mori Panther drive sprockets MGP05, Mori Panzer jackets MGA06 Elefant Panther barrel, clean rod tube No 35489, tow cable ends No 35532

Plus Models etch buckets set 152, oil tins set 106

MK35 Panther spare wheels

Paints

White Ensign paints

Panzer interior cream ARG01, Schokoladebraun ARG04, Olivegrün ARG05, Dunkle Gelb ARG11.





References - The US Army's new Army Combat Uniform



▲ The machine gunner's 7.62mm M240B is equipped with a M145 Machine Gun Optic additionally fixed with wire. Note the flex cuffs attached to the soldier's UDCP Modular Lightweight Load Carrying Equipment (MOLLE) Rifleman and the black elbow protectors.

GOING DIGITAL

Ralph Zwilling offers us an insight to the US Army's new camouflaged uniform.

When thinking of an average U.S. Army soldier, people quickly see an image of a man armed with a M16 rifle and wearing a woodland pattern Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) or a Desert Camouflage Uniform (DCU). Soon this image will be obsolete as the U.S. Army just started fielding the new Army Combat Uniform (ACU). After years of study and field deployment of thousands of prototype uniforms to units involved in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, on 14 June 2004, the Army's 229th birthday, senior leadership at the Pentagon

officially announced that a new uniform was selected for its troops.

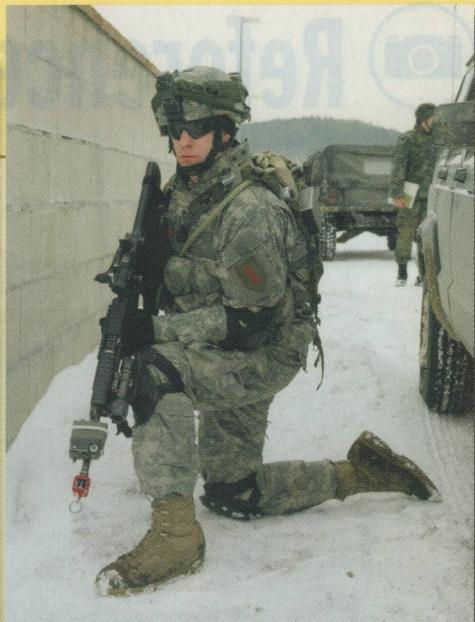
The Army Combat Uniform (ACU) in the Universal Digital Camouflage Pattern (UDCP) will replace both the BDU and the DCU in the upcoming years. Beginning in February 2005, the ACU became standard issue for all deployed troops and fielding to the entire Army is expected to be completed by December 2007. The U.S. Army claims that the new uniform provides enhanced functionality and ergonomics paired with providing one uniform deployable worldwide. The need to issue new uniforms for specific environments ended when the Army adopted

the ACU. The genesis of the new uniform began in January 2003 when Program Executive Office Soldier (PEO Soldier) teamed with high-ranking NCOs from Fort Lewis, Washington's first operational Stryker Brigade in order to deal with the disadvantages of current BDUs discovered during recent operations. During the following months several types of uniforms were evaluated including pattern from foreign countries and the most functional features combined into one prototype. 25 prototypes were manufactured and then tested by three infantry squads under operational conditions at the National Training Centre, Fort

Irwin, California. The prototype was then modified based on comments from the test personnel and again field-tested. In the second test 21 uniforms went with three Stryker infantry squads to the Joint Readiness Training Centre, Fort Polk, Louisiana. Again, the prototype was modified and then produced in larger quantity. Nearly 10,000 new uniforms were issued to soldiers of the 3rd Brigade, 2nd U.S. Infantry Division, the first operational Stryker Brigade Combat Team. In November 2003 the unit deployed to Iraq where the new design was tested under combat conditions. At that time the uniform was still in the desert



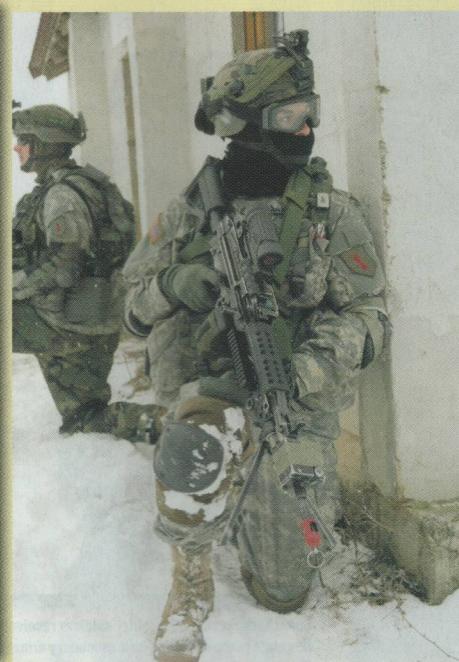
▲ Like other soldiers scheduled to serve in Iraq or Afghanistan, the soldiers of the 2nd Brigade, 1st U.S. Infantry Division also received some of the latest equipment in January 2006 just days prior to their training exercises, including the new Army Combat Uniform (ACU) in the Universal Digital Camouflage Pattern and several Rapid Fielding Initiative items.



▲ On this picture the permanent IR feedback square fitted to the ACU jacket can well be seen above the famous Big Red One patch. It is mounted on the Velcro of the flap of the upper arm pocket. The IR feedback square at night time allows an easy Friend/Foe identification. This soldier also wears the new Army Combat Boots (Temperate Weather).



▲ The jacket of the new Army Combat Uniform features several improvements over the older Battle Dress Uniform. Improvements include Velcro type tape faced shoulder pockets, Mandarin collar, integrated jacket expands for increased body mobility, hook-and-loop tape sleeve cuff closures, three slot pen pocket on lower left sleeve, elbow pouches for inserting elbow pads and so on.



▲ The 5.56mm M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) of this Task Force I-26 Infantry soldier is equipped with several Rapid Fielding Initiative items: M145 Machine Gun Optic, Picatinny MIL STD 1913 Rails, 100 round Soft Ammo Pack, Collapsible Buttstock. The new SAW buttstock will allow the weapon to be fired from the shoulder in the extended and collapsed positions.



▲ Defence Supply Centre Philadelphia contracted 16 commercial sources, Unicor Federal Prison Industries, the National Institute for the Blind and the National Institute for the Severely Handicapped to produce the new U.S. Army uniform. In total the new Army Combat Uniform features 20 changes and new features compared with the older BDU. Note the Trijicon Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight and the olive drab Weapon Light attached to the 5.56mm M16A4 rifle.

camouflage pattern also used by the Desert Combat Uniform. Throughout the development and field-testing every change made to the prototype was based on soldier's comments and experiences. It was the soldier's idea to introduce a Mandarin collar and place the pockets where they are now. Every change was made for good reason. For example, the pockets, previously situated on the lower front parts of the jacket, were moved to the upper jacket sleeves and tilt forward. The reason for this being the fact that troops during combat operations wear body armour, which denies the access to the pockets on the

lower front of the jacket. Buttons were replaced with zippers that open from the top and bottom to provide comfort while wearing the Interceptor Body Armour (IBA). Patches and tabs are affixed to the uniform with Velcro to give the wearer more flexibility and to save the soldier money from additional sewing. As a result it could be said that the new uniform is well designed to perform in all combat environments. The development team choose a lightweight 50% Cotton and 50% Nylon rib-stop cloth manufactured in accordance with Military Specification Mil-C-44436 for the ACU. The expected service-life for the new ACUs

is 6 to 12 months. The fabric is plain dyed and features a water repellent treatment. Defence Supply Centre Philadelphia contracted 16 commercial sources, Unicor Federal Prison Industries, the National Institute for the Blind and the National Institute for the Severely Handicapped to produce the new U.S. Army uniform. In total the new Army Combat Uniform features 20 changes and new features compared with the older BDU. The design of the new uniform reached production status after operational testing in Iraq. While PEO Soldier and selected NCOs carried out the design work, the Camouflage Evaluation

Facility (CEF), located at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Centre in Natick, Massachusetts worked on a new camouflage pattern. The new requirement of this research was that one pattern should work in three environments: Urban, Desert and Woodland. The research program for a universal camouflage pattern was under way for some years as part of the "Future Force Warrior Program" and was pulled forward and executed early. This was done in order to provide the U.S. Army with a new uniform camouflage pattern that works in all environments at all times. U.S. Army officials stated that the pattern is not a 100-percent ►



References - The US Army's new Army Combat Uniform

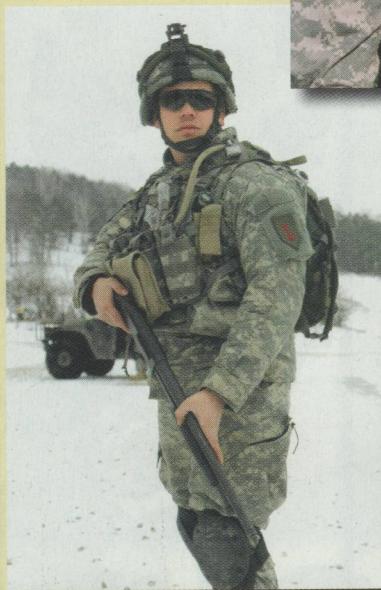


◀ This Task Force I-26 Infantry Sniper wearing WileyX ballistic protection glasses camouflaged his 7.62mm M24 Sniper Weapon System (SWS) with strips of white cloth to blend it with the snow covered environment during Operation Noble Shepherd. This soldier already served in Iraq as can be identified by the Big Red One Combat Patch worn on the right upper arm.

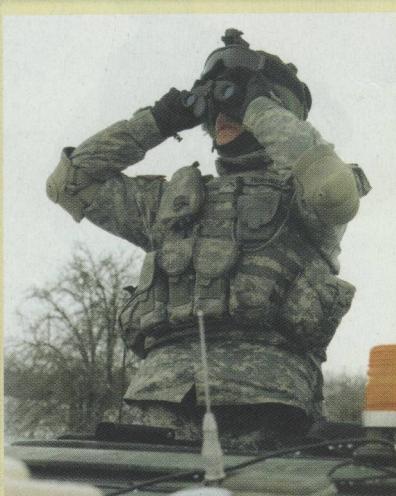
The Army Combat Uniform (ACU) is made of a 50/50 Cotton Polyester Rip-stop fabric printed in the new Universal Digital Camouflage Pattern: Desert Sand 500, Urban Grey 501 and Foliage Green 502. The camouflage pattern is designed to work in most operational environments including urban, wooded and desert combat zones. Many units were issued green name tags and rank insignias because there was not enough time to have the digital camouflage patches made.



▲ This HMMWV crew provides cover for their team leader checking a suspicious Iraqi car south of Balad. While the driver is armed with a 12-gauge pump shotgun the machine gunner operates a 7.62mm M240B with attached M145 sight. Note the folded MG bipod and the night vision goggles mount on the gunner's Army Combat Helmet. Both soldiers wear ballistic protection eye wear.



▲ Some Task Force I-26 Infantry soldiers received 12-gauge pump shotguns as a secondary armament. This young Specialist wears the new Army Combat Uniform together with the Army Combat Helmet, knee protectors, a CamelBak Hydration System and the Modular Lightweight Load Carrying Equipment (MOLLE) Rifleman in the Universal Digital Camouflage Pattern. Well visible is one of the large forward tilted cargo pockets. The pocket offers easy access whether sitting, kneeling or standing and features an elastic drawstring in addition to its hook-and-pile tape closer.



▲ Besides an Interceptor Body Armour this Private E-2 wears the Modular Lightweight Load Carrying Equipment (MOLLE) Rifleman with different pouches for 5.56mm ammunition magazines, night vision goggles and the Improved First Aid Kit (IFAK). The MOLLE consists of a modular rucksack with removable compartments and components and a fighting load vest that can accept removable pockets for rifleman, pistol, squad automatic weapon, medic and grenadier configurations.

◀ solution in every environment, but a good solution across the board. Based on the digital pattern of the United States Marine Corps, U.S. Army research and tests resulted in a digital pattern consisting of the following three colours: Desert Sand 500, Urban Grey 501 and Foliage Green 502. Black is no longer used in the U.S. Army camouflage pattern as it is not a colour commonly found in nature and has certain drawbacks. It was originally put in the BDU to separate the other colours and to help with shadows. Tests were conducted under simulated day and night lighting conditions.

Prototype camouflage patterns of the Universal Digital Camouflage Pattern were produced at the CEF using a digital inkjet textile design and printing system, a practice which helped to save money and eliminate camouflage pattern designs for the new pattern. During the evaluation and testing of the pattern and colours for the ACU, PEO Soldier also took a hard look at the tan boot colour. Evaluators noticed that the darker colour suede boots, like the boots the Marine Corps wear, became very dark after only limited wear. As a result, they decided to slightly darken the standard 1991 era

desert boot. As soldiers break them in, the boots match the desert sand colour in the ACU.

The basic set of new Army Combat Uniform consist of a jacket, trouser, patrol cap, moisture-wicking socks, moisture-wicking desert tan T-shirt and the recently adopted Army Combat Boots (suede tan) for either temperate or hot weather climate. The new uniform costs about \$ 88 per set, \$ 34 more than the previous Battle Dress Uniform. In addition to the above listed items, the soldiers will also receive a boonie hat, helmet cover for the Advanced Combat Helmet in UDCP,

Modular Lightweight Load-Carrying Equipment (MOLLE) in UDCP and an Outer Tactical Vest for the Interceptor Body Armour in UDCP. The black beret, fielded on 14 June 2001, remains authorized for wear with the new ACU in garrison, but there is also a matching patrol cap, which can be worn at the commander's authorization.

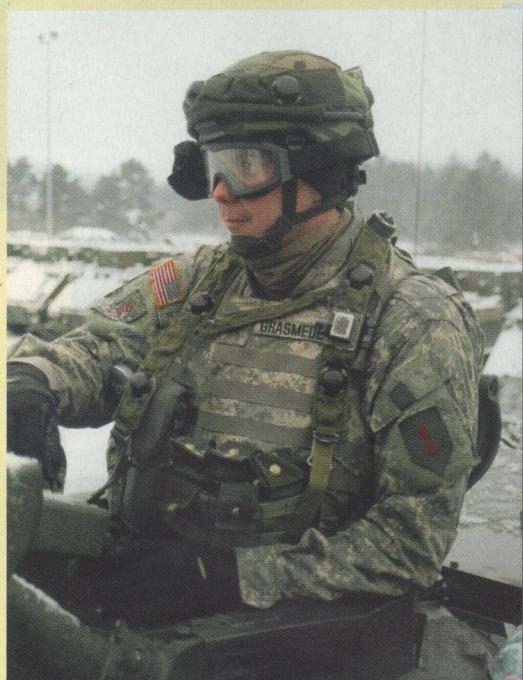
A total of 20 changes were made to the newly issued Army combat uniform representing the biggest change in the U.S. Army uniform since the early 1980s when the Battle Dress Uniform was introduced.



▲ As it will take at least until December 2007 to field the new Army Combat Uniform to the entire U.S. Army, it's very common to see soldiers wearing a mix of ACUs, BDUs or even DCUs.



▲ This soldier already got issued the new 200 round ammo soft pack for the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW). Each Brigade Combat Team will receive 648 SAW ammo packs. Note the flashlight and the M145 Machine Gun Optic attached to the SAW Picatinny rails.



▲ This MIAI AIM tank commander wears the new Army Combat Uniform and an Interceptor Body Armour (IBA) both coloured in the new Universal Digital Camouflage Pattern together with an Army Combat Helmet with woodland camouflage cover. As this soldier already served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom 2, he proudly wears the 1st Infantry Divisions' Big Red One patch on the left upper arm and the same patch as a Combat Patch on the right upper arm.



▲ Even when the right soldier already got issued the new Army Combat Uniform together with some RFI equipment, he still lacks the Universal Digital Camouflage Pattern camouflage cover for his Army Combat Helmet. Note the Advanced Combat Optical Günsight attached to his 5.56mm M4AI Carbine and the black knee and elbow protectors.

The changes and new features are as follows:

- Mandarin collar that can be worn up or down on the jacket.
- Rank insignia centred on the front of the jacket.
- Velcro for wearing unit patch, skill tabs and recognition devices on the left and right upper sleeve pocket of the jacket.
- Zippered front closure with dual way zipper on the jacket.
- Elbow pouch with hoop-and-pile tape closure for internal elbow pad inserts on the jacket sleeves.
- Knee pouch for internal kneepad inserts on the trouser legs.
- Drawstring leg cuff on ACU

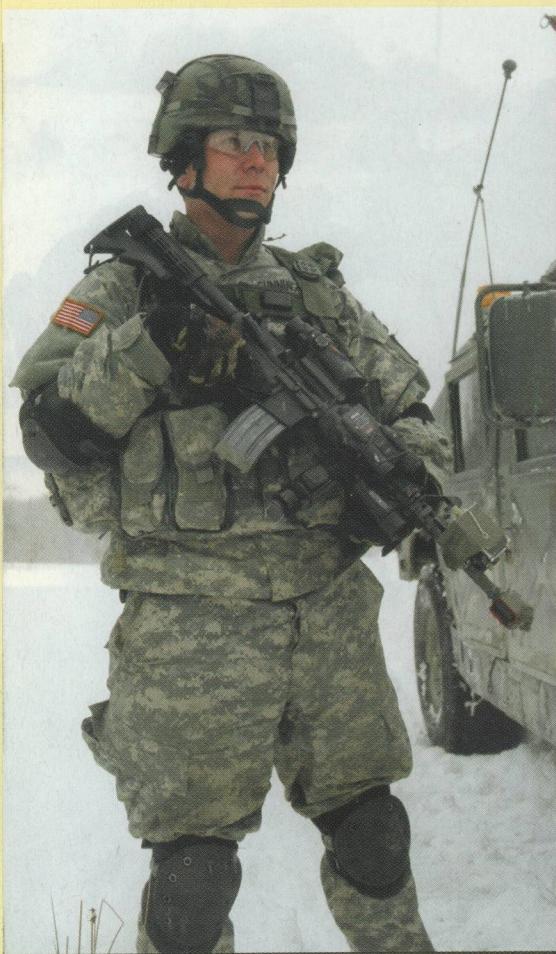
trousers.

- Tilted chest pockets with Velcro closure optimised for use with the front opening of the Interceptor Body Armour.
- Three-slot pen pocket on bottom of left sleeve of jacket.
- Velcro sleeve cuff closure on the jacket.
- Shoulder pockets with Velcro closure on left and right upper sleeve of the jacket.
- Forward tilted cargo pockets on the trousers featuring elastic drawstrings in addition to its hook-and-pile tape closer.
- Integrated jacket bellows for increased upper body mobility.
- Integrated IR-Friend-Foe Identification Square on both left and right shoulder pocket flap and IR feedback American Flag worn on right upper arm.
- Bellowed expandable calf storage pocket with hook-and-loop tape closure on left and right leg.
- Moisture-wicking socks.
- Patrol Cap with double thick bill and internal pocket.
- Moisture-wicking desert tan t-shirts.
- Two-inch, black nylon web belt belonging to the trousers.
- Printed in the new Universal Digital Camouflage Pattern designed for all environments.

The Georgia National Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade was the first unit that deployed to Iraq wearing the new Army Combat Uniform in February 2005. Never in history has a uniform gone from concept to full-scale production and distribution in such a short period of time. Since February of 2005, the ACU has been issued to more than 170,000 soldiers totalling more than 680,000 uniforms in support of deployments to OIF and OEF. ■



References - The US Army's new Army Combat Uniform



▲ ▲ This 1st Infantry Division soldier attached all of the currently available equipment onto his 5.56mm M4AI Carbine. It features the Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight (ACOG), a compact flashlight, an Atilla-200 infrared illuminator/aimer fixed with flex cuffs, an improved buttstock, and an extendable Grip Pod System (GPS). The GPS is a new vertical fore-grip integrated with a strong and stable bi-pod. Using the GPS a soldier can go from Close Quarter Battle (CQB) position to prone, and have stable base for aimed firing in place before hitting the ground.



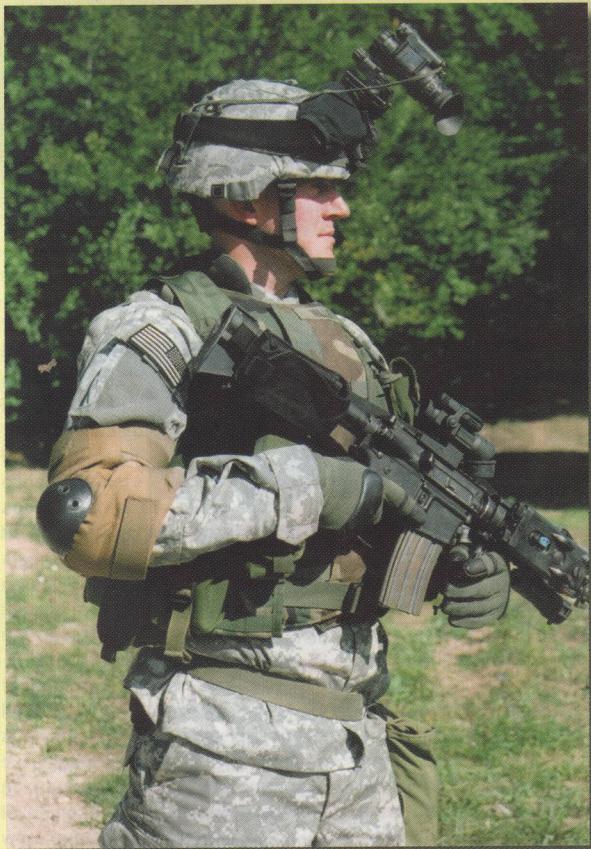
▲ The Velcro style faced shoulder pocket allow the wearing of unit patches, recognition devices and skill patches without spending hours of sewing them on. A quick changing or removing of badges prior to operations is also made easier.

The ACU trousers right and left leg features expandable calf storage pockets with hook-and-pile tape closure. The pockets are large enough to hold a 30 round 5.56mm M16 magazine, notebook or knife.





▲ The IR American Flag worn on the right upper arm and being attached with Velcro is made of a reflective material used for easier combat identification. To the naked eye, they appear without a visible reflective glow.



▲ Also the new 1.4 kg Army Combat Helmet (ACH) has three integrated IR-Friend-Foe Identification Squares on the side and the top. The new ACH offers enhancements in ballistic protection, vision, hearing, stability, compatibility, weight and comfort.

▲ Even when this soldier belonging to the 54th Engineer Battalion already wears the new Army Combat Uniform, his Interceptor Body Armour is still in Woodland camouflage. He was also issued some brown elbow protectors and ESS ballistic protection goggles.



▲ This Specialist E-4 is armed with a 5.56mm M4AI Carbine with an attached M68 Close Combat Optic (CCO) and an AN/PEQ-2A Laser Aiming Light. Note the black magazine pouch attached to the collapsible buttstock and the AN/PVS-14 Night Vision Goggles.

▲ As part of the Rapid Fielding Initiative (RFI) all U.S. soldiers getting deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan get issued a CamelBak Hydration System. Note the straps attached to the Army Combat Helmet UDCP cover used to fix the ballistic protection goggles.



RUSSIAN BEAUTY

The Editor builds MiniArt's Soviet T-70 light tank and gives it a home on a Monroe Perdu base...

www.monroeperdu.com
www.monroeperdu.com
www.monroeperdu.com
www.monroeperdu.com

Following on from Paul Egerton's preview of this lovely little kit back in issue 5, I thought it would be nice to build a model from a company that was new to me.

Between September 1942 and September 1943 some 8226 T-70 and T-70M's were produced for the Soviet, Polish and Czech armies.

Armed with a 45mm main gun and one 7.62 coax machine gun combined with its light weight of under 10 tons and a maximum speed of 30 miles per hour, made this an ideal reconnaissance tank. It was also used later in the war as a command tank for self propelled artillery units.





To replicate the asbestos insulating tape wrapped around the exposed exhaust pipes, thin strips of Tamiya masking tape was carefully wrapped around each pipe, then fixed in place with thin viscosity cyano glue.

TO THE MODEL

Construction is very simple with only 6 stages to follow in the instruction sheet,

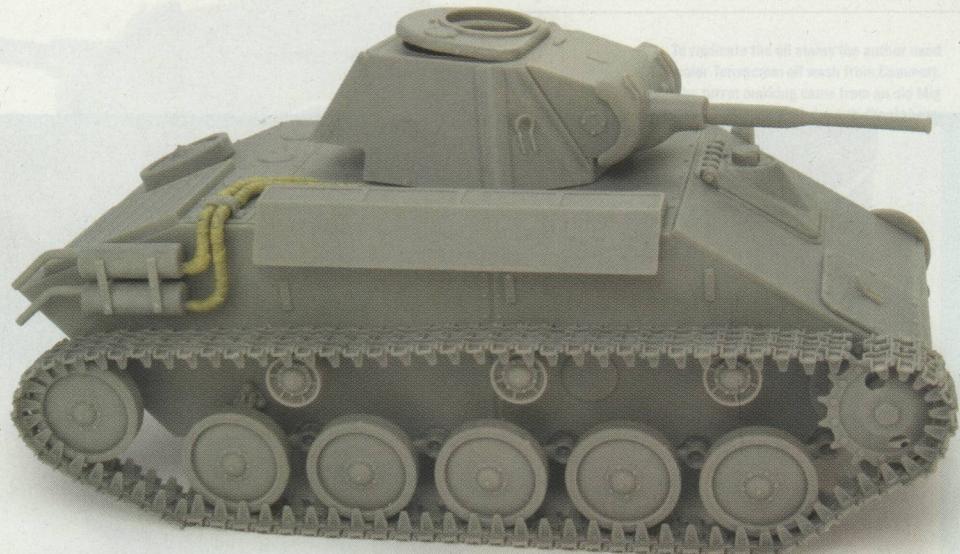
Since I was only interested in building this kit out of the box, I chose to ignore the internet chat about whether the turret should be symmetrical or asymmetrical, I also didn't want to add any of the recently released etched brass sets as construction of my model got underway.

Stage one pretty much covers the complete assembly of the hull and running gear, the parts all fitted very well, especially the suspension arms, which had nice positive locators making for a nice level model once the roadwheels were in place.

Stage two, moves to the mantlet and gun assembly, the gun comes complete with a nicely detailed breech and coaxial machine gun

Stage 3 deals with the rest of the turret including the installation of the pre assembled mantlet and shield. At this stage there is the option of two different styles of turret hatch periscope covers, the decal option illustrations show that four use what I think is the later type and the fifth uses the earlier type. Stage four deals with the sprockets and mounts, the exhaust system, headlight and horn installation.

The final stage of assembly was for me the most time consuming by far and that involves making up the track runs from the individual links supplied in the kit. These I made up into the correct lengths for the top and bottom runs, for the sections around the drive sprockets and



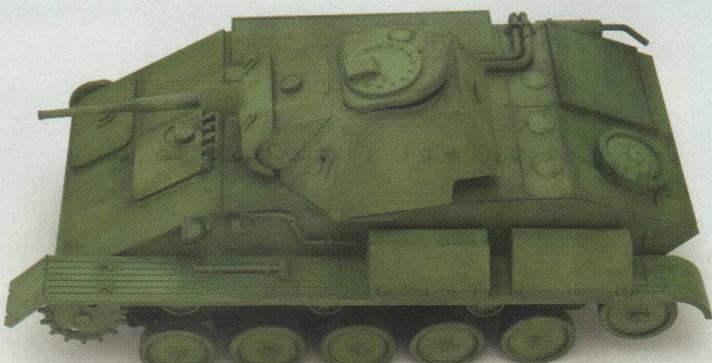
The virtually complete model with the tracks temporarily installed for the photo. The track guards and support brackets will be attached once the painting stage had been completed.



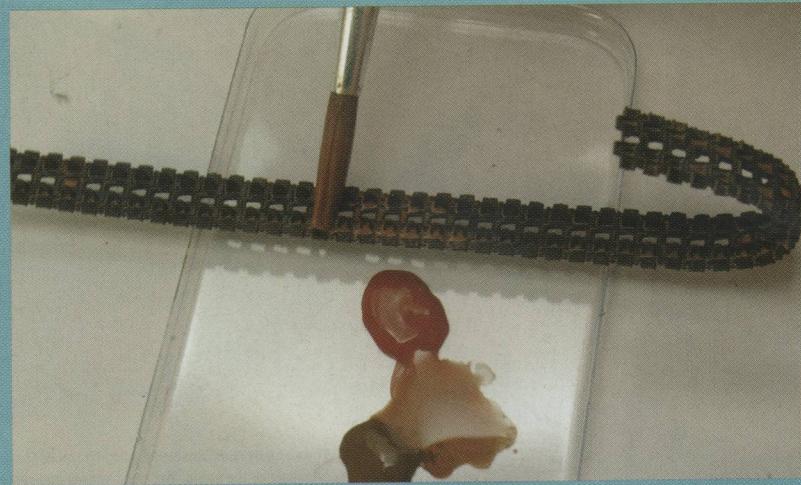
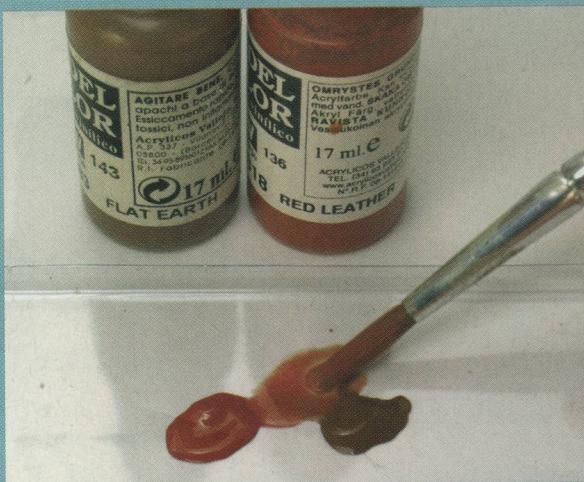
The basic colours have been applied using an Iwata HP-C Plus and Vallejo acrylics.



The author used Humbrol 159 to stipple a random mottled effect over the base colours as part of the weathering process.



When compared to the top shot we can see how much the washes, filter and stippled enamel paint has toned down the overall finish.



To prevent the delicate individual tracks from falling apart, which can happen when using spirit based washes, the author played safe and used acrylic paints thinned with tap water. The colours chosen were Vallejo's Flat Earth and Red Leather, these two colours mixed make for a pleasing fresh rust colour. Once dry the tracks were ready to be drybrushed using Humbrol Polished Steel.

sprayed onto the high points and in downward lines to suggest streaks. At this point it all looked very garish, I wasn't worried though as I knew the subsequent washes and filters would tone this effect considerably.

The next stage of the painting was where the real experimentation would begin.

What I decided to do was to stipple the entire model with Humbrol Khaki Drab 159. This I left to dry for a day before colour washing the model in various brown and green oil paints. These two effects had really toned the brightness of the original colours

without spoiling the effect I was after. The final stage of the basic painting was to stipple more Humbrol paint onto the model but this time using Bronze Green 75, concentrating around the hatches to simulate a grimy well-worn finish.

TRACK PAINTING

Once the tracks had been made into a top and bottom run for each side I gave them a base coat of German Camouflage Black/Brown 822. In recent times whilst weathering sets of individual tracks with white spirit based washes I have found that the spirits seems to weaken the glue, which to say

the least is a little annoying.

Because of this I have started to use Vallejo acrylics thinned with water, this has stopped any chance of this happening again. The colours I used were from the model colour range and they were Flat Earth 893 and Red Leather 818. Once this wash had been left to dry fully the guide teeth and ground contact areas were drybrushed with Humbrol Polished steel Metalcote.

The tracks were glued in place, and then gently heated with a hair drier to soften them before lightly pressing down on the sections between the return rollers for the

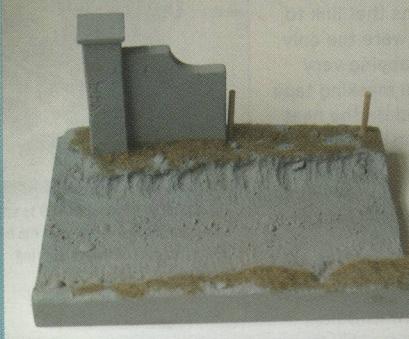
distinctive sag, so often seen on Soviet tanks.

I was now ready to fit the mudguard assemblies, to do this I held them in place one at a time then carefully flowed liquid poly along the join with a fine brush, as long as the brush is not repeatedly passed over the same area it will not lift the paint, whilst still offering a strong bond.

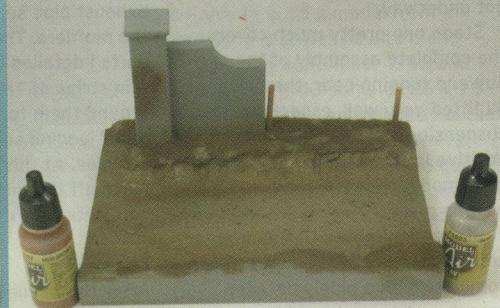
Any mistakes because of my heavy handedness were disguised with some chips and scratches. Last of all some Mig productions Rubble Dust pigment was applied to the model to help tie it to the groundwork.



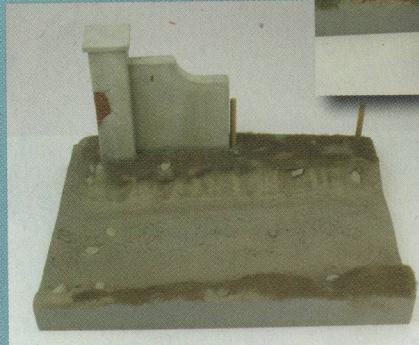
A coat of grey primer has been applied to the Monroe Perdu casting to ensure the acrylics adhere to the resin.



Static grass has been glued to the verges with PVA glue. Once it has been scattered and gently tapped in place, the excess can be removed by tipping the whole thing on end.



The basic earth colour has just been sprayed on, and is still wet. Model Air Hemp and Mud Brown have been used, the Mud Brown has been concentrated in the shadow areas and wheel ruts.



The base is now being detail painted and the grass has started to receive drybrushing.



Vallejo matt varnish has been brushed onto the dirt areas, then liberally sprinkled with Mig Productions Rubble Dust with the aid of a large brush.



The completed base has now been fixed to a solid wood base from Just Bases, using 5 minute epoxy glue.



GROUNDWORK

Building this little T-70 gave me the ideal opportunity to use the Monroe Perdu sunken road resin base. The first thing to do was to attach the wall section to the base section, there was a small gap around the base of the wall, this was filled with some PVA glue and then sprinkled with some weathering pigment.

The entire base was then given a coat of grey primer, prior to stippling on some more PVA glue and scattering static grass over the PVA'd areas.

Once the grass had stuck firmly the roadway and edges were airbrushed in various mixes of Vallejo Modelair Hemp and Mud Brown. With the basic dirt colour in place I set about bringing the grassed areas to life by dry-brushing them in Humbrol enamel 159 Khaki Drab, once the grass had an even coat of Humbrol Dark Yellow 83 was dry-brushed over selected areas to represent dry and dead grass, this would also help break up the uniformity.

With the grass now finished the areas of bare soil were brushed with a thin coat of Vallejo Matt Varnish then liberally covered with Mig Productions Rubble Dust, spelt Rubbel on the lid.

CONCLUSION

I thoroughly enjoyed building this lovely little tank from MiniArt, the parts all fitted very well the detail was crisp, clean and the instructions easy to follow.

Overall I'm really enjoyed this project and I the excellent Monroe Perdu's Sunken Road really finished it off. ■

To replicate the oil stains the author used Lifecolor Tensocrom oil wash from Cammell. The turret marking came from an old Mig Productions dry-rub decal sheet.

Modelspec

MINIART 1:35 T-70M

KIT NO.35025

Products used

Verlinden figure Soviet tank troops WWII 1908
Aber Wire entanglements Type A D-25
Monroe Perdu Sunken road base

Paints used

Vallejo
Military Green 975, Flat Earth 893, Red Leather 818
German Camouflage Black/Brown 822
Modelair colours
Hemp 023, Yellow Olive 013, Mud Brown 037
Humbrol
Khaki Drab 159, Dark Yellow 83
Bronze Green 75, Polished steel Metalcote

- Great subject and well engineered.
- Tracks were fiddly to put together.

Available from

MiniArt T-70 available from www.hannants.co.uk
Monroe Perdu from www.monroeperdu.com
Verlinden from www.historrex-agents.co.uk

Rating 



The Monroe Perdu Sunken Road base is the perfect backdrop for this diminutive Soviet tank.



Book Reviews



ARMAGEDDON OST

NIK CORNISH

IAN ALLAN PUBLISHING

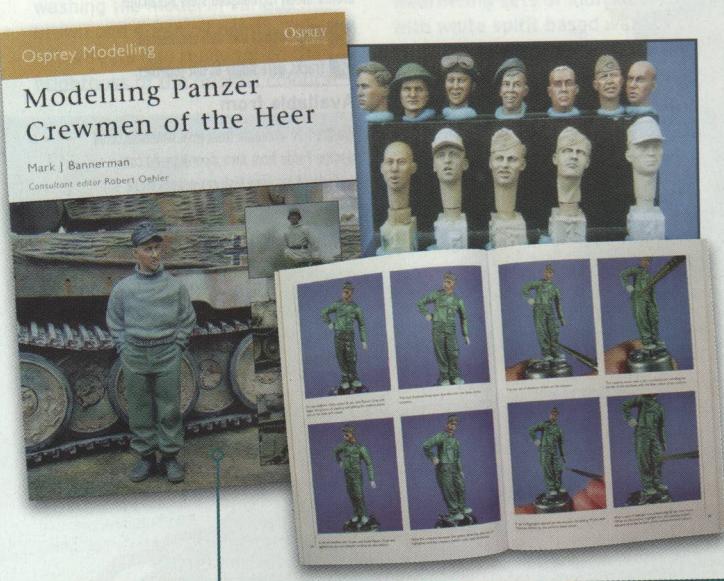
ISBN 0-7110-3036-7

WWW.IANALLANPUBLISHING.COM

This book examines the defeat of the German Army on the Eastern Front 1944-45 largely from the Russian perspective. The campaign is covered in 160 pages with some 180 black and white photos, many from Russian archives and not seen before. The book is well written and gives a good overview of this bloody and sweeping action. Very much in the 'big hand, small map' style but nevertheless is well worth a read and will serve as a very good lead in to more detailed study of various aspects of the Russian advance if that is your particular area of interest.

Recommended for all WWII enthusiasts.

Paul Egerton



OSPREY MODELLING 8 MODELLING PANZER CREWMEN OF THE HEER

MARK J BANNERMAN

OSPREY PUBLISHING

ISBN 1-84603-132-X

Another in the excellent Osprey Modelling series but this time featuring the men rather than the machines of war. Mark Bannerman features three types of uniforms (Panzer Black, Afrikakorps and the two piece reed green denim often worn by Stug crews) and explains in full how to achieve first-rate figures to complement the vehicles. Further chapters explain in more detail some of the techniques used and cover such topics as painting flesh, weathering clothes, sculpting figures and shading and highlighting black amongst others. As is the norm with this series there are intro and Getting Started chapters at the beginning and a Reference section at the end.

Well worth adding to the library particularly as there is nothing worse than a superb vehicle let down by a toy-like crewman.

Paul Egerton



OSPREY MODELLING 33 MODELLING THE T34/76

JORGE ALVEAR, MIG JIMENEZ, MIKE KIRCHOFF AND ADAM WILDER

OSPREY PUBLISHING

ISBN 1-84176-929-0

An outstanding volume in the Osprey Modelling series with four pre-eminent modellers applying their skills to the T34/76. Many of the construction techniques used by the top echelon are clearly demonstrated here and cover such topics as re-producing cast surfaces, soldering photo-etch, scratch building and super detailing. Painting and weathering techniques are also comprehensively covered. I particularly liked Mig's photo step by step section – it is all made to look pretty straightforward but why do mine never turn out like his??!! I think that this is much more of a 'how to' volume merely using the T34 as the vehicle to demonstrate what can be achieved. Therefore, do not be put off by the subject matter as any vehicle could have been used. Recommended unreservedly if you want to improve your modelling skills.

Paul Egerton



HIGH SPEED TRACTOR A VISUAL HISTORY OF THE U.S. ARMY'S TRACKED ARTILLERY PRIME MOVERS

DAVID DOYLE AND PAT STANSELL
AMPERSAND PUBLISHING

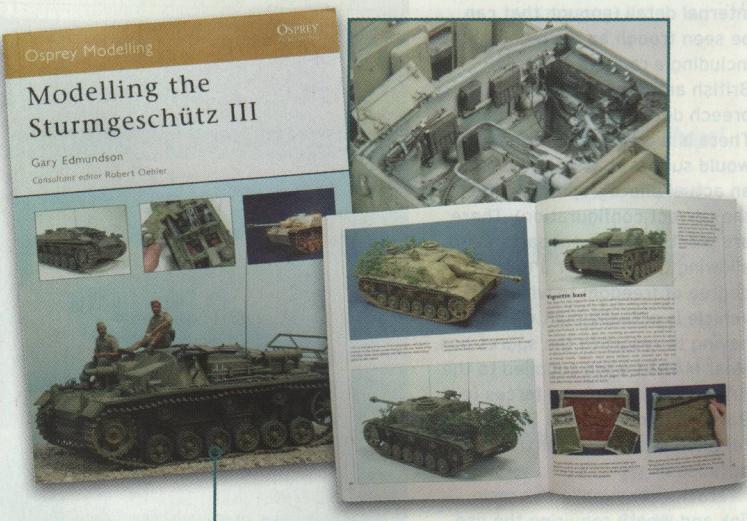
ISBN 0-9773781-0-1

It's not often a book comes out of the blue and you get the same 'must have' feeling that you get with a kit but this was it for me, the subject is right up my street, I can't tell you every rivet, nut and bolt but the subject set my modelling juices flowing, what a shame the only kits available are in resin and not within every ones price range.

The book is split down to five subjects, the M2, M4, M5, M6 and M8 with factory and in the field picture's of each of the Tractors, every Tractor has highly detailed shots in a modellers walk round style. There is a great picture of a M6 on the back of a M26 Dragon Wagon on the back cover, that picture alone seemed worth the cover price alone for inspiration.

Don't be put off by the lack of models on the shelf; we (I) can only hope one of the major injection plastic manufacturers will fill this hole in the market. Add this to your library and you won't regret it and the price is more than appealing; get your copy from Historex and like mine and it will come in double quick time.

Ian McGonagle



OSPREY MODELLING 22

MODELLING THE STURMGESCHÜTZ III

GARY EDMUNDSON

OSPREY PUBLISHING

ISBN 1-84176-949-5

Gary Edmundson applies his undoubted skills to modelling a variety of Stugs with chapters on the Stug III B, Stug III D, early Stug III G and late Stug III G. Tamiya and Dragon kits are used together with a considerable range of after market products showing just what can be achieved in terms of detail and accuracy by a top flight exponent of the art. Clear and concise explanations supported by excellent colour photos demonstrate how the various effects were achieved and although the subject matter is yet another WWII German AFV, the modelling techniques can be applied to any vehicle. Painting and weathering are well covered (no pun intended!!) and it is interesting to see Gary's take on this critical area of modelling.

Definitely one to add to the library regardless of your period or vehicles of interest.

Paul Egerton

17

ALLIED-AXIS THE PHOTO JOURNAL OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

DAVID DOYLE
AMPERSAND PUBLISHING

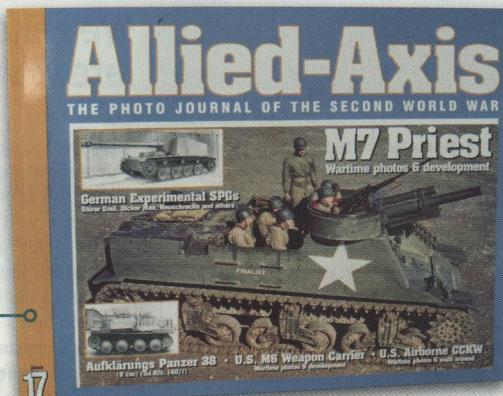
ISBN N/A

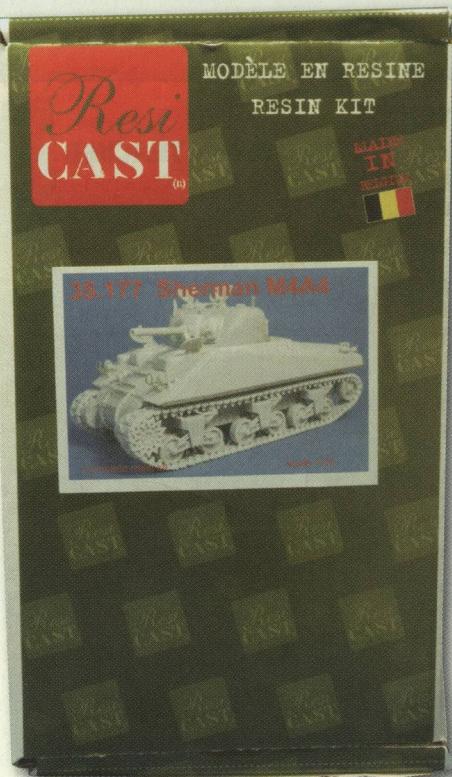
I have to admit I missed the boat with this publication, always other kits to buy, but number 17 caught my eye, as I like the Dodge Weapon Carrier and the M7 Priest.

The format is well known to all that have the previous issues, a short but concise glimpse of the subject, and a sort of power point presentation of the vehicle. Most of the photographs are from the manufacturers depot or from the armies testing grounds with a few in the field photos to bolster the presentation.

Number 17 presents you with German Experimental SPG's, 2.5 ton CCKW Airborne Truck, WC-55 Dodge, Aufklärungs Panzerwagen 38 and the M7 SPG, a good spread of interesting subjects that will hopefully spur you to model something you may not have considered before. I think that's what gives these books the appeal; they make you look at subjects that you may not have seen or been interested in before. This book has made me look in to what I have been missing all these years, I am sure that big nuggets of gold lie in those past publications so I for one will be scouring the book stalls at the model shows to see just what I have missed.

Ian McGonagle





M4A4

We take a peek at Resicast's latest version of the Sherman...

Keith Goldsworthy

How many Sherman kits does the modelling community need? Well I believe Graham at Resicast must think that there are simply not enough available, as he seems to be in the process of creating kits of every variant. Well perhaps he is not going that far but the M4A4 that is the subject of this review is one more in a long list of Sherman kits, either produced as a conversion for a plastic mainstream kit or a full kit. The M4A4 is certainly a full kit in every respect. Over 160 resin parts plus two frets of 39 brass items gives the modeller plenty to work with. Supplied in the familiar stout cardboard box, the parts are contained in several plastic zip bags, carefully wrapped in bubble wrap. Unfortunately this did not prevent some slight damage to the left front of the upper hull. This is minor and nothing that cannot be repaired quite easily. Unusually there are some small air bubbles in the castings of the upper and lower hulls but these are relatively minor and not a representation of the overall quality of casting.

The kit can be split into three distinct parts: the lower hull with separate transmission housing and running gear; the upper hull with separate engine deck; and the turret with a choice of gun mantlets.

The lower hull requires fitting of a separate aforementioned rear engine plate and transmission housing. These two parts should be fitted before any attempt is made to join the upper and lower hulls, as some work is required to

ensure the upper and lower hulls join perfectly. I would suggest careful sanding of the sponson sides with plenty of dry fitting. The bottom of the lower hull is beautifully detailed with access panels and the typical (to the M4A4) bulge, which helps house the radiator of the Chrysler Multibank engine. Each suspension unit of the running gear is comprised of three parts, the wheel assembly (with solid spoked wheels), bogie and skid plate (which is correctly detailed with bolt heads). Despite the simplicity of the assembly the level of detail is superb. Drive sprockets (the common fancy, smooth variation) are provided as a complete assembly.

The upper hull (with wide hood and welded glass) with the improved hoods for the driver and bow gunner (identifiable by the lack of direct vision ports) has separate engine access doors, which will allow the display of the multibank engine kit. All the

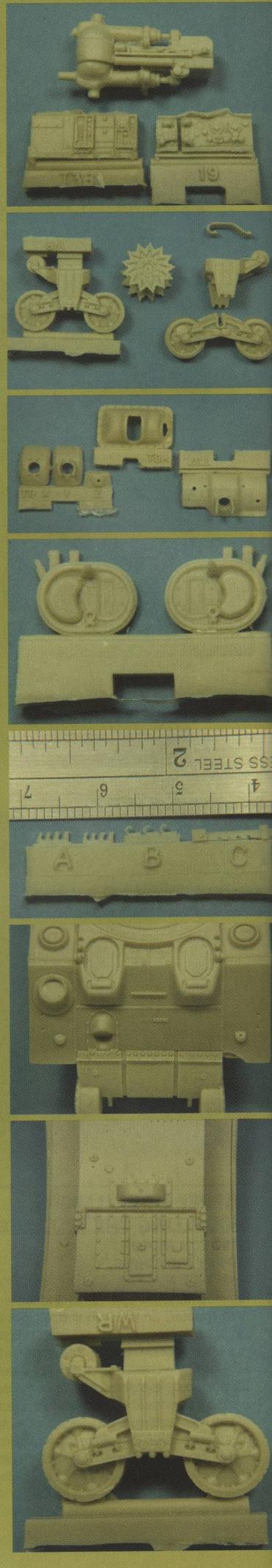
relevant foundry casting numbers are present and will require some subtle painting techniques to show off their detail. Careful painting and weathering will also show off the textured raised weld seams.

The 75mm turret has some internal detail (enough that can be seen through an open hatch) including a radio (a choice of British and American) and full breech detail of the 75mm gun. There is a choice of mantlets (I would suggest basing the build on an actual photograph to ensure the correct configuration). There are plenty of optional parts allowing the modeller a greater degree of freedom to which vehicle is actually built without having to resort to the spares box. Most M4A4s were supplied to the British and associated forces (e.g. Polish & Canadian) but 56 were retained in the USA for training purposes.

Tracks are supplied as resin link and length requiring the use of a hairdryer to form the tracks around the idlers and sprockets.

The instructions are in the form of a 12-page A5 booklet. As is the norm with Resicast, instructions are based upon photocopies of in-build photographs. There are also a couple of schematic and cutaway drawings.

I have reviewed several Resicast kits and I am quickly running out of superlatives to describe the level of detail normally provided. This kit is no exception. Hopefully the accompanying photographs will help me out without having to resort to the thesaurus. ■



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Letters

RECOMMENDED READING

VIETNAM TRACKS ARMOR IN BATTLE 1945-75

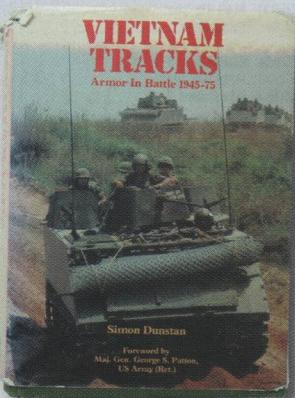
SIMON DUNSTON
OSPREY

ISBN 085045 472 7

Having Sam Dwyer's AFV Club Centurion in this issue, along with the excellent walk around photos of the real thing, has made me reach for my dog-eared copy of Vietnam Tracks. This is one of my all time favourite books, not only is it packed with superb photos covering the armoured vehicles used by all the countries involved; from the early days of the French in Indo-China right up to the withdrawal of US forces from Saigon in 1975. As well all those great images it also contains some fascinating written accounts of the battles as well.

I believe this book was re-issued a couple of years ago with some extra colour photos within the centre section.

If you see an original copy or the re-issued version about and have any interest in the Vietnam conflict, grab it you will not be disappointed.



MORE GUIDES PLEASE

First thanks for a brilliant magazine for the armour fans like me. Excellent first issues - subscribed after picking it up and read cover to cover. Also led me to shops in the advertising section. First issue was great for us amateur modellers with the resin and glossary at end. (Would have liked mention of the glues for resin also - but found that in later issues). Read about suggestions for photo-etch step-by-step (I would also love to see that) and would like to see step-by-step for painting the figures. Dioramas are my "niche" and the figures are the most interesting element, but painting small faces and clothing (1:35 scale usually) is a struggle for my old fingers. Saw the large guide for the paratrooper, but scale was larger and techniques are nearly impossible for small scale for me. I generally end up with dark washed faces and "dot" eyes. Keep up the great work - I'll keep reading if you keep 'em writing.

Brian Hensley - Warboys

Ed says: I too struggle with figure painting, but hopefully Fraser's

232 6-rad article should go some way to helping with your 1:35 figure painting with his description of the techniques used for the superbly painted crew figures.

WELCOME BACK

I haven't done any modelling since I was a boy but I have decided to start the hobby again. I am in the process of reassembling the tools and materials that I will need to pursue this. So far the tools haven't been too much of a problem, but I am struggling to decide what are the types and colours of paint, which would best form a basic palette for modelling principally WWII vehicles. Should I buy enamels or acrylics for example? The first model I am going to tackle is the Tamiya Ford Buff in desert camouflage and opinions on the best colours for this type of model would be very useful. Unfortunately living in Jersey we have no real model shop of any note to ask for advice and so have to rely on mail order outlets for most of the materials. Can you offer any advice?

Best Regards
Mark Allen (Jersey)

Ed says: Welcome back to the hobby Mark, I'm sure you will have seen a lot of changes to the hobby since you stuck a model together.

I would recommend getting hold of one of the mail order specialists like Hannants who will stock every thing you could possibly need (their details are on our contact page). As for paints, acrylics I think would be your best bet, company's like Tamiya, Xtracrylics, Lifecolor and Vallejo to name a few all offer an excellent range of acrylic paints; Xtracrylics, Lifecolor and Vallejo are all suitable for brush painting and being water based are easy to thin, clean and safe on the environment.

MONEY WELL SPENT

I've just read your Last Post on the cost of the hobby, a subject that comes up in every one of the model magazines I read.

I have a theory. Not all of us build just to get the finished article, or to get to the painting stage. As a professional engineer, my satisfaction with the hobby is in the construction and assembly of the 'bits'. I am therefore more than pleased with the current trend for some of the manufacturers to constantly increase the parts count.

Now to the point. I value my modelling as a cost per hour of modelling. I don't mind if a model takes months, provided I enjoy the challenge of putting it together. I therefore feel that if I buy all the add-ons, it only adds to the enjoyment of the kit. If I spend £100 on one model, I'm likely to spend at least 5 times the hours building it, than I would on a £20 kit. In the long run, this actually makes the hobby cheaper! The disadvantage is that the display cabinet fills up much more slowly! So to all the 'moaners' out there, spend and save!

Keep up the excellent work with the new mag, but could we have more

pictures of the unpainted models, please? (Like the Skybow Tiger)

PS. Pass on my thanks to your

subscriptions department. My first

subscription issue landed two days

after phoning the order through!

Great!

Kind regards,
Peter Haywood

Ed says: Yes it is certainly a topic that brings passionate responses from either camp.

Regarding the unpainted photos of the Tiger we used all the images the Author supplied with the article. Unfortunately we can only publish what we are supplied with.

VITAL STATISTICS

Firstly the magazine is wonderful it's so nice for a change to see British and commonwealth equipment for a change, being ex-guardsman I try to do machines used by Guards Armoured Div. There is no model shop close so like T.C. Regan (Devon) I also have to rely on mail order. I have just finished your article on the LVT.4, ugly yet beautiful. To get to the point what are the dimensions that you used for the .50 cal shields, also I have been trying to find a QLD soft skin that would not break the bank.

Yours Sincerely,

Alan Archer

(Lancashire)



Ed says: Thanks Alan, as was mentioned in the LVT article, the dimensions for the shields were not taken from exact measurements. For this reason we chose not to draw them as templates for the article, just in case someone knows different.

The dimensions are as follows 20mm wide at the front, 22mm wide at the rear (open end), 12mm high at front, 22mm high at the rear and 22mm deep. The flared outside sections were made from 2mm wide plastic card.

At the moment the only QLD we can think of is the excellent full resin kit from the Belgian Resicast, which is around about 89 Euros.

FOR THE NOVICE

Your excellent magazine has appeared just at the right for me as just like a number of your readers I am returning to the modelling fold after a forced absence while marriage, kids, career and such paraphernalia where dealt with. There must be a few of us in this bracket as the industry appears to be going through a small resurgence.

My modelling has been eclectic but has always leaned towards military and 1:76th scale. I started as a youngster in the 50's, took off in the 60's with the advent of Airfix magazine, and built my last few kits in the early to mid 70's. So after a 30-year absence I have purchased a number of the excellent new 1:72 military kits in preparation, and I am keen to re-start my hobby. However I am finding this difficult to do and am

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wondering if the same problems I have are discouraging youngsters from taking up our interest? Modelling has come a long way in 30 years. Plasticard, stretched sprue and balsa was the order of the day for any modification and refinement. Photo etch was in its infancy and there were only a few after market parts like Almark for the 1:76 military modeller. Your magazine and the excellent builds depicted therein are both an inspiration and a discouragement. The finishing or painting of a model surely makes it, and the quality of the parts these days perhaps makes details of the actual builds unnecessary. As such your articles deal primarily with the painting or airbrushing skills of the modeller. So are we modellers or have we become artists? An assumption is made that everyone owns and can use an airbrush expertly, and that pockets are deep enough to triple the initial cost of a kit with aftermarket parts that require no more effort than painting.

I feel something has been lost along the way. One of the big attractions to modelling was that it was cheap and therefore affordable to youngsters. Youngsters need to learn the basics of modelling and how to paint with a brush while they save up for an airbrush or can afford the propellant. To see the superb finished models in your magazine is to set goals that I certainly could not attain yet alone any youngster. It is not too bad for pensioners like me as I

will take the plunge soon and build one of my kits and possibly dig into my meager pension for a few aftermarket bits as how else do I have any hope of achieving today's standards? But if we are to keep our hobby alive such that there are more like me in 30 years time we must attract a different level of modeller, the novice and the youngster by showing them that good models can be produced the old fashioned way. To this end, and perhaps to encourage me, a few back to basics articles, built from the box and painting by brush alone would be welcome. Perhaps some new modellers could be encouraged to submit articles in say a junior or novice class section showing that there is an acceptable level on the route to the professional class depicted each month. MMI is the best magazine on the shelves today and an enjoyable read cover to cover. As such it is well placed to fuel the resurgence the hobby needs and where it needs it - with the youngsters.

Duncan R G Jolly
Lincs

Ed says; First of all thank you for the kind words; I fully appreciate your concerns regarding the way the hobby has gone. I think the younger generation has turned away due to there being so many other distractions, like computer games etc and not the cost of this hobby, my son for example thinks nothing of saving his pocket money on a game, which



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This time of year is for me the highlight of my hobby, or job as it now is, two of my favourite shows, one of those is Euro Militaire in Folkestone 23/24 September and the second is the IPMS Nationals at the Telford exhibition centre 18/19 November. Euro is such a great social event and offers not only the chance to see in the flesh the works of the world's top modellers, but a great place to put faces to names over a beer or two and discover this hobby is full of some of the nicest people you could hope to meet.

The Nationals is an event to experience if for no other reason than its sheer scale, the show covers two vast halls packed with club stands and traders alike. The competition area alone is bigger than the average hall used for most model shows.

For me this year's shows will be a little different because in the past I have attended either behind a trade stand or hidden behind the ADH publishing stand eating all the biscuits and sweets the girls have brought with them. I suppose this year I will have to actually earn my free entry for once...

p.s My best wishes go to Derek Hansen of Accurate Armour for a speedy recovery from his recent operation, enjoy the daytime TV.

Spud
John 'Spud' Murphy

See you again on November 2nd!

costs around £30-£40 pound and be bored with it with in a day or two! Airbrushes are a common tool now; cheaper ones can be picked up for the price of a couple decent 1:35 armour kits these days. Because of this we have to keep with the times, and promote their use. When I started modelling I first used aerosol cans to put on the base colour then brush painted the camouflage pattern. Or stuck with single colour vehicles. Once I was completely hooked on the hobby I bought my first airbrush and treated it as an investment knowing that it would

eventually save money on cans, and my models would look better (I hoped). Lastly I think we are in a convenience world where nobody wants to do it themselves, so they just wait to some manufacturer brings the update out they want, pay the money and glue it on, with out all the effort and pleasure from building it themselves. In issue 5 I built an Italeri LVT IV and added scratch built machine gun shields, well I got an e-mail from a guy asking if I could build a set for him!!!! I think that sort of typifies how things have changed.

JUST GOTTA BUILD IT!

WE TAKE A CLASSIC PHOTOGRAPH THAT'S JUST CRYING OUT TO BE TURNED INTO A MINIATURE SCENE...

Following my recent trip to the armour museum at Saumur, I have been sorting through some of the photos and this one of the late model Sturmpanzer IV Brummbär, gave me that just got to build feeling. I just need to track down the Dragon kit.

Keep your letters coming, just write to:
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Figures

- A round-up of the latest figured sets on release...



Miniature Alliance

DOG TAG FIGHTING MEN

1:16 CHARACTER HEADS SET A and B

Item No. MAH 1201 MAH1202

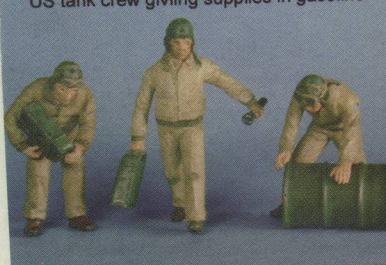
Two very nice set of heads of bold character heads in 1:16 scale, as with the Miniature Alliance figures we have reviewed in previous issues, these are expertly sculpted with flawless casting. Each has a unique expression and facial features; they will however need hair and eyebrows adding by the modeller, for this reason they score slightly lower because some sculpting skill will be required.

8/10

Available from www.minially.com

50332

Equipage de char US ravitaillant en carburant
US tank crew giving supplies in gasoline



GASO-LINE

Gasoline

1:48 US TANK CREW WITH

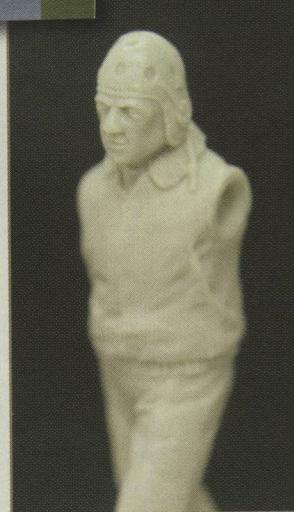
FUEL CANS

Item No. 50332

This is another one of those sets where the box top painting does not do the actual figure sculpting justice. The three figures will be the perfect complement to the growing range of US armour in 1:48. All are dressed in the sought after "tankers jackets" and wearing the perforated tankers helmets, I'm sure these will prove popular for anyone modelling US or French WWII armour in this increasingly popular scale.

9.5/10

Available from www.quarter-kit.com



Italeri

1:72 GERMAN AFRIKAKORPS

Item No. 6076

Another great value set of 50 wargame figures from Italeri; this set like their previous sets in the range offer a great selection of action poses and weapons. According to the box top they are produced in Italeri's Super Special Material, which apparently makes them easy to glue and easier to paint than the usual soft vinyl type plastic wargaming figures are usually produced in.

8.5/10

Available from all good model shops



Warriors

1:35 MODERN AFRICAN HEADS SET NO. 1

Item no. WA 35518

Another useful set of heads from Warriors, this time consisting of six in various types of headgear, including Soviet style soft tankers helmets, berets and one who is sporting an Afro hairstyle. The sculpting is excellent as is the casting these heads really do look African.

9.5/10

www.lsamodels.co.uk





Dragon
1:35 1ST LUFTWAFFE FIELD DIVISION NOVGOROD 1944
Item No. 6274

More stunning figures from Dragon's new Gen 2 range, here we have a set of four dejected looking Luftwaffe troops wearing the reversible quilted winter uniforms. The sample figure I built for the photos did have a few minor fit issues, I built the figure up very quickly without any cleaning up, I'm sure when built without rushing these will be as good as they get. As usual Dragon have supplied a ton of extra webbing equipment, pouches and weapons etc. making them all great value for money.

9/10

Available from all good model shops



Takahashi Modelling
1:48 GERMAN S.PZ.ABT.503 UNTEROFFIZIER
RUSSIA 1943
Item No. TK4803

This is the second of a set of three based on a famous series of featuring the crew of a Tiger I from Heavy Panzer Battalion 503 in Russia 1943. This figure like the others from Takahashi is without fault.

10/10

Available from www.hlj.com

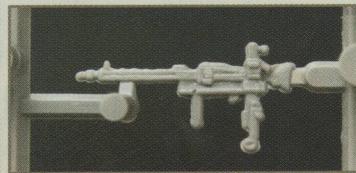


Armourfast
1:72 WWII GERMAN MACHINE GUN TEAM
Item No. 99007

Designed with the wargamer in mind Armourfast have produced a set of 24 figures to make up a number of MG34 and MG42 machine gun crews. Although the detail isn't quiet up to the standard of the equivalent sets from Italeri, they should still be perfect for the wargamer needing to build-up their forces.

7/10

Available from www.creativemodels.co.uk



Warriors
1:35 GERMAN HEAD SET
No.62
Item No. 35552

Six more heads from Warriors, I can't quiet believe this set is the 62nd set of German heads from these guys. Here we have three wearing helmets with covers and three without, all are wearing rather stern looking expressions. Again first rate sculpting and casting.

9.5/10

www.lsamodels.co.uk



MK 35
1:35 GOUMIER ITALY
1943 FRANCE 1944/5
Item No. F166

An interesting choice of subject is this Goumier from French manufacturer MK35.

These troops were formed from tribal units originating from the Atlas Mountains in Morocco, they fought along side the Allies during the campaigns in Tunisia, Italy and France during WWII earning a formidable reputation for being very tough fighters. Cast in a pleasing to the eye pale green resin that really shows the level of detail unlike the more familiar cream coloured resins. Very well sculpted and faultless casting make this a great subject.

9.5/10

Available from www.sbmodels.net



Beobachtungspanzer Panther

WWII German Mobile Artillery OP

SCALE
1:35
MODEL KIT No
35571



OP PANTHER

Darren Thompson gives us his initial impression of this one of a kind example of the famous Panther tank from ICM...

CM have already bought us 2 versions of their Panther Tank, one 'Bergepanther' and one Gun tank, both based on the Ausf. D. This third incarnation, also based around the Ausf. D chassis, is the lesser-known 'Panzerbeobachtungswagen Panther' and as far as I know, it's the first time we've had it available in plastic kit form.

The lower hull and running gear follows very closely the previous two kits, including a one-piece lower hull with good belly and side detail and a set of separate positional suspension arms. The 16 bolt road wheels and drive sprockets are well re-created, but not quite on a par with Dragon's. Surface detail is crisp, although

the drive sprockets have no inner surface detail and the drive teeth look a little square, but this second point is easily remedied with a quick swipe of a file. The tracks are of the non-working, individual link type and, apart from a couple of very small pin marks, look pretty good.

On the upper hull, all engine deck covers and grilles are moulded separately, but no etched grille covers are included, these will have to be sourced elsewhere. The interlocking plate and weld detail is very nicely handled, without being at all heavy handed and should come up well under some paint. In addition, the exterior details nearly all have a good deal of finesse to them, the on-vehicle tools, towing shackles, Bosch headlamp and antennae mounts are good examples of this, all are more than adequate and won't require replacement.

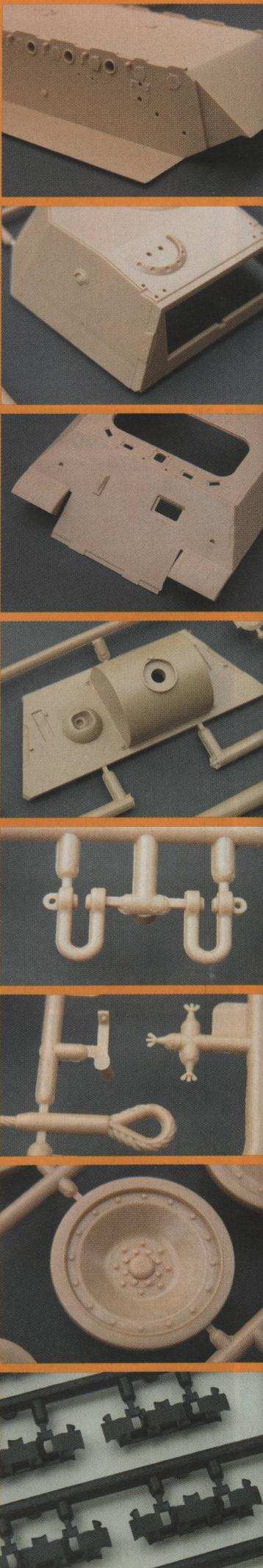
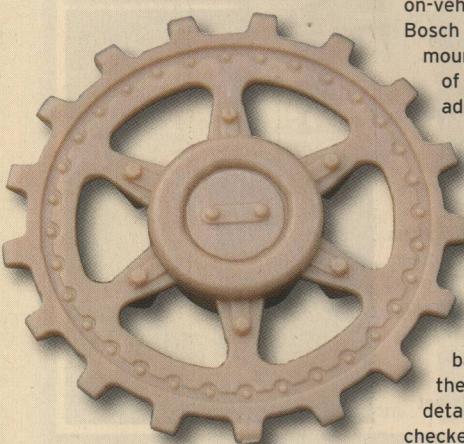


The turret is all-new for this kit and whilst similar in dimensions to the Ausf D. it bears few similarities. The 75mm gun has been replaced by a dummy gun and mantlet, combined with a ball mounted MG34. Whilst the turret dimensions and detail scale out very well, when checked against Panzer-Tracts 11-1

(Armoured Observation Vehicles), the 'gun' barrel doesn't fare so well, being about 10mm too long, the rest of its dimensions are good though, so with a bit of surgery, it can be corrected. The turret again benefits from good weld and joint detail and some very fine grab handle and wing nut details.

Markings are limited to a trio of balkenkreuz, with the painting instructions placing the vehicle on the 'East Front - 1943', but as this vehicle never went into production and with only one prototype being built, I wouldn't like to say how accurate that information is! A couple of other things to watch out for are the lack of part numbers on the sprues, although there are numbered sprue diagrams on the instructions, the sprues themselves are blank, so watch out. You'll also have to make, or buy yourself a 'crow's foot' aerial, as there isn't one included with the kit.

I must admit to being pleasantly surprised by the ICM Panthers, whilst not being quite up to the standard of Dragon's current offerings, they certainly run them a very close second and with the benefit of the positional suspension and these lesser seen versions, they become a real viable alternative. ■



MODELS TO GO

David Knight takes a look at these increasingly popular pre-finished 1:72 models, ideal for the wargamer and collector alike...



DRAGON ARMOUR

JAGDPANTHER SPZJGABT 559 AUTUMN 1944
SCALE 1:72 • ITEM NO. 60006

This model represents a Jagdpanther or Hunter Tank in the late autumn of 1944. The standard of painting on this vehicle is to the usual high level seen on other Dragon models and extends to the underside of the chassis an area sometimes missed on other models. The detail is exquisite which has been further highlighted by careful weathering. Although in this instance maybe the model would have benefited from a touch more weathering on the road wheels.

10/10 - David Knight

Available from all good model shops.
Distributed in the UK by Amerang
www.amerang-group.com

EASY MODEL

GROUND ARMOUR (WW II) SERIES
M26 PERSHING HEAVY TANK
SCALE 1:72 • ITEM NO. EM.36200/1/2

Easy Model produces three variants and the subject of this review is listed as an M26E2. Which actually was a prototype derived from the M26 and eventually ended up as the "Patton tank" M46 Patton. The weathering on this model is minimal and overall it is painted to a good standard. The turret rotates, 90mm main armament elevates, the decals would however benefit from a touch of matt vanish to take away the shine and the underside hull plating and tank tracks would have also benefited from some weathering. However, that said another good model from Easy Model.

8/10 - David Knight

Available from all good model shops.
Distributed in the UK by Toyway Ltd.
www.toyway.co.uk

EASY MODEL

GROUND ARMOUR (WW II) SERIES
JOSEF STALIN HEAVY TANK
SCALE 1:72 • ITEM NO. EM.36244/5/6/7

Easy Model produce four different models of this tank an Egyptian IS-3m (EM.36246); a Soviet IS-3 based in Odessa (No.36244); a tank unit in Hungary during 1956 (No. 36245) and a tank unit on the Chinese Border in 1972 (No. 36247). Weathering on these models is restrained and they are painted to a good standard. The casting on all four of the turrets including the grab handles has been well executed and the heavy machine guns are neatly represented. My only quibble is as with many such models is that the underside hull plating and tank tracks could have benefited from some weathering.

8/10 - David Knight

Available from all good model shops.
Distributed in the UK by Toyway Ltd.
www.toyway.co.uk

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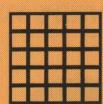
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COVER STORY

Brian Balkwell offers a simple guide to making ultra realistic tissue tarpaulins.

Initially I tried using the PVA glue method but found the result too stiff and unworkable (probably my fault), so I tried various methods until I hit upon one that worked well for me. It produces a tough sheet of silicon treated tissue that is very hard to tear, takes paint really well, and can have creases imprinted and removed at will.

You will need the following:

- A water based bathroom silicon sealer.
- Extra strong pocket tissues.

- An airbrush.
- A good half to three quarter inch flat paintbrush.

GETTING STARTED

The pocket tissues used are generic Asda Walmart, but they have about 3-4 ply and the edges are pressed together. They are also a good size for this work. The first thing I do is iron the folds out of them, as I want the central area smooth. Next squeeze about 3 inches of the bathroom sealer into a small sealable container and add

warm water (ratio about 1:2). Seal the container and shake it for a few minutes until most of the sealant has liquidized and its foamy (there will be some residue, don't worry).

Take a tissue and lay it a flat surface (I use paper card), and using short strokes with the flat brush, paint the solution onto the tissue, making sure each area is soaked through, before moving to the next. When one side is done, turn the tissue around and do the other. When both are wet, hold the tissue between your fingers and

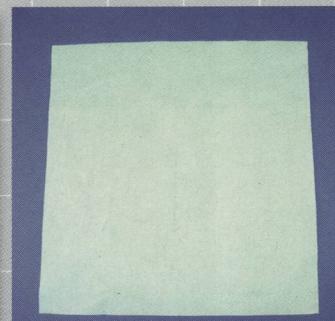
gently tease the major creases from it (similar to how you work a pizza base). When done, take a hair dryer and dry both sides of the tissue.

Now peel the single coated outside ply from each side of the tissue and repeat the steps above for the uncoated side of each. When finished you will have two rubberised textured sheets of fabric. At this point I roll them against a flat surface to further force the sealant into the fibres, and remove creases. I then cut

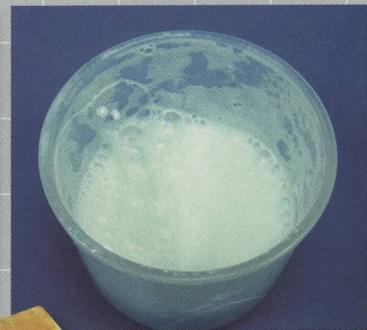
RAW MATERIALS



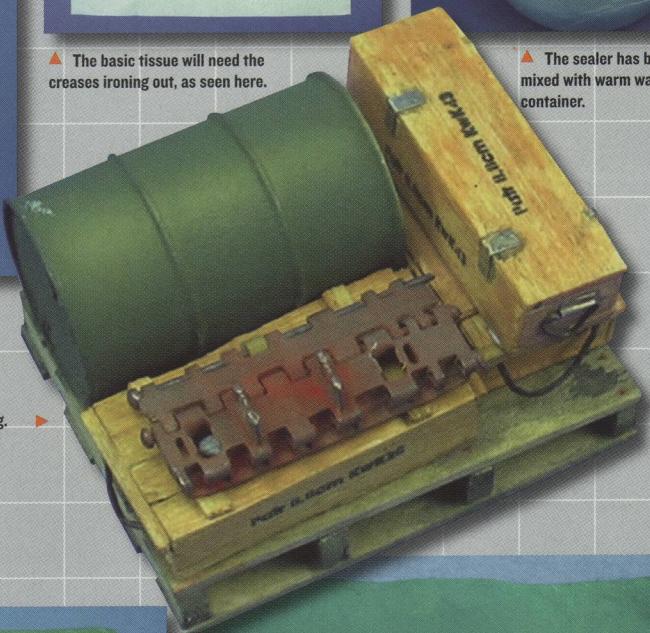
▲ Both of these products are readily available from all major supermarkets and DIY stores.



▲ The basic tissue will need the creases ironing out, as seen here.



▲ The sealer has been thoroughly mixed with warm water in a sealable container.



Our pallet of stores ready for wrapping.

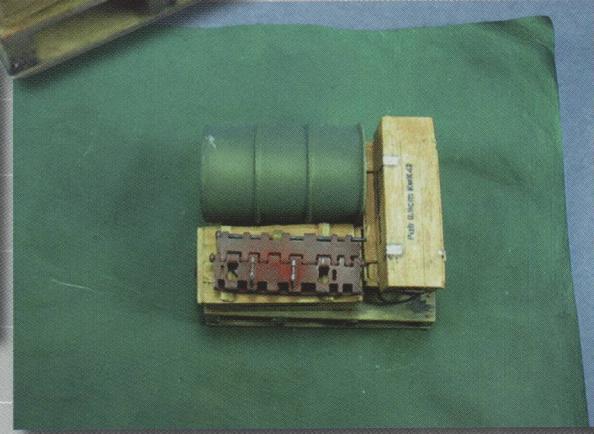
GETTING STARTED



▲ Here the diluted sealer is being carefully applied to the tissue, once the first side is coated the process is repeated on the other.



▲ The "tarp" has now received a base coat of Tamiya field Grey and Deep Green mixed 50/50 and thinned with alcohol.



▲ The items to be wrapped have all been painted as the author intends that some of the stowage remain visible on completion.

the patterned outside edge from each side, retaining the 6x6" area in the middle. At this point you should have two sheets of treated tissue that are tear proof, flexible, and will retain a fold or imprint (which can also be removed if its not right)

BASE PAINT

I do not use primer as it makes the tarp too smooth when finished.

Take a tissue and spray both sides with your chosen colour. I use a 1:1 mix of XF-65 Field Grey and

XF-26 Deep Green mixed 1:1 with IPA (don't use water, the alcohol ensures a dense paint coverage). Mix quite a bit of paint the tissues are thirsty!

When dry, take the tissue in one hand and draw it gently between your thumb and first two fingers of the other to smooth out the final creases - expose any unsprayed areas, and fix them.

PREPARING THE TARP

For this article I am building a tarp for a pallet holding a 45-gallon

drum, some scratched ammo boxes and some Friul tracks. These items have great scope for raised edges and depressions, which add realism to the finished item. Put the model onto the tarp and work out the area required, allowing for seams, folds and depressions, then add another 10% to be on the safe side. I want part of the items on the pallet to be in view, so I cut it accordingly.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

At this point you can put in seams, repaired areas, or eyelets.

For seams, score a line with the BACK of a blade about 1.5mm from each edge, and glue it down with PVA. Then take each folded seam and fold it over itself AGAIN, and glue down.

For patches, take a spare piece of sprayed tarp, cut the size and shape you want, and paint it a darker green (straight XF-26 Deep Green in this case) than the original, (don't forget the edges, or they will be white). Glue it to the tarp, and with the point of a straight scalpel blade, make the



WEAR AND TEAR



▲ The seams have been made by scoring 1.5 mm in from the edges with the BACK of a blade.



▲ To add some extra interest the author added a patch from a spare piece of tissue, this was painted in a darker colour to contrast.



▲ The tie down rings were made by first piercing the corners of the tarp with a pin, the eyelets came from an old photo etch fret.



▲ The tarp is now ready for folding and weathering.



The edges have been rubbed with a Q-tip to ▶ "raise" them.



▲ The completed tarp is now ready to be used as required.

► 'stitches' around the edge.

For eyelets, take small rings from an old PE fret and glue them at corners and points in between along the seams. Take a sharp pick or pin and punch out the tarp hole through the ring. You can now run 'ropes' through these eyelets. (I use rigging rope from the shipbuilders).

Once done with all the extras, seal both sides with a good coat of future. Rub down the length of each seam with a Q-tip to 'raise' it. It should now be looking quite

tarp like.

Before fitting to the model you will need to create the normal folds that appear in a stored tarp by folding it into halves and quarters, and sharpen each crease between finger and thumb. Do this several times to really 'form' the creases, then flatten the tarp again to eliminate some of the sharpness to

not use white!), mix with water 1:9 and paint some the squares formed to show areas of more exposure. Remember - these exposed panels will be next to each other, not diagonally opposite. With a thin wash of straight XF-60 (again 1:9) gently highlight each of the RAISED folds.

FITTING

This is where using the sealant really comes into its own. You can now mould the tarp around the items as any times as you wish,

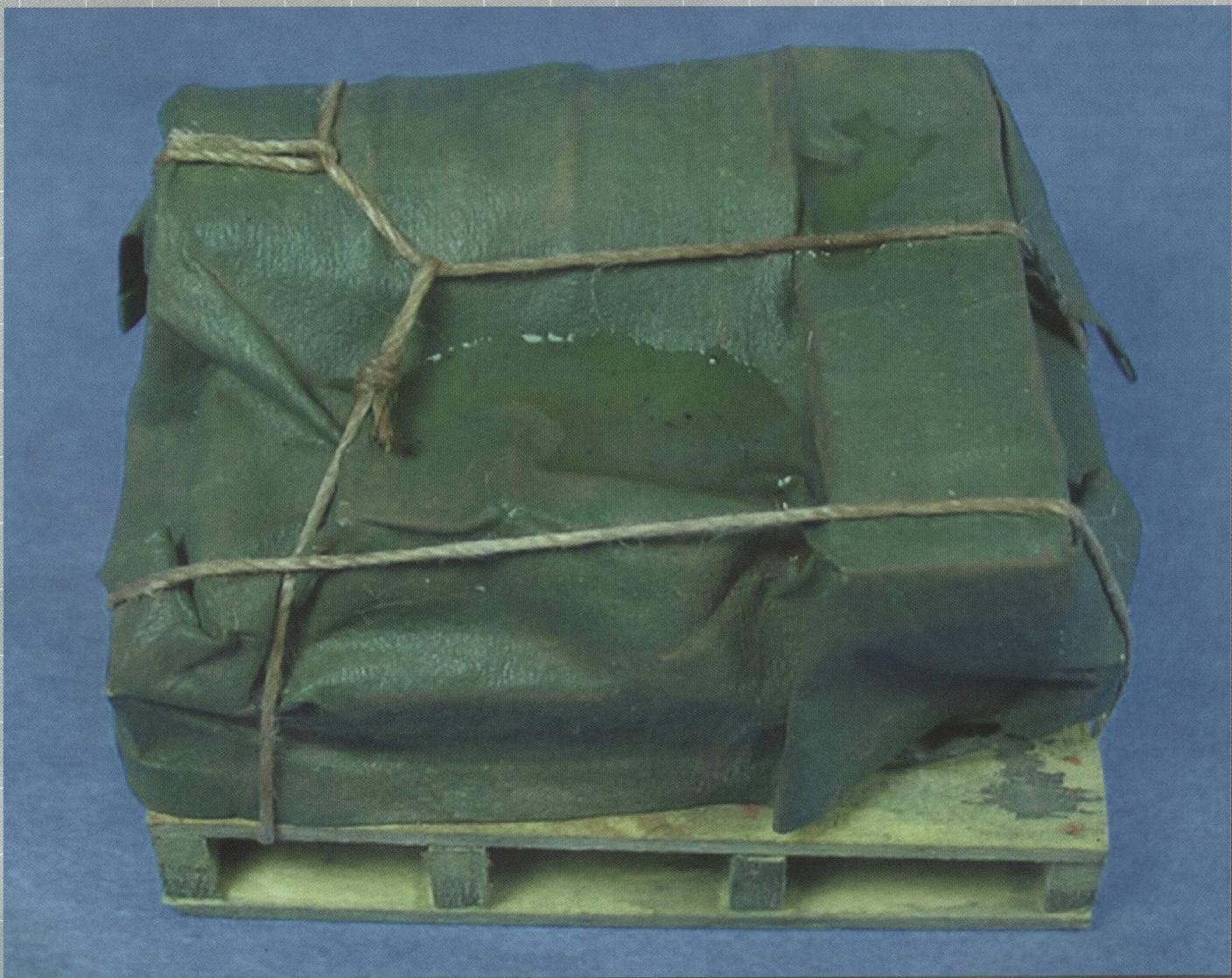
and it will hold in place - if you are not happy, smooth it back out with finger pressure, and do it again.

When happy, start at one side of the model and glue the tarp down with CA, ensuring folds, creases, depressions etc are formed as you go. You can now 'rope' the tarp down, pulling quite hard to create the creases formed by the rope (don't worry the tarp is indestructible). Now rub all raised areas with fingertip to reveal detail.

WRAPPING UP



▲ We can see here how the weathering is bringing the tarpaulin to life, with the use of Tamiya Red Brown (XF64) for the fold edges and raised contours. This was followed by a wash of Mig Productions dark Earth. Below we can see how realistic the finished item looks, complete with puddles of water.



PAINTING AND WEATHERING

First you need to decide your environment and proceed accordingly. This project will be in Europe in autumn/winter so there will be dirt and water.

First, highlights and shadows are put in (not many as the tarp is pretty realistic anyway). Raised contours and fold edges are given a wash with XF-64 Red Brown. The

whole surface is then washed with a thin solution of Mig Dark earth. I then take clean water and 'paint' this wash downwards to make the pigment run recessed areas - don't worry, you can use lots of water, as the tarp really is waterproof. Once this has dried, I add Woodland Scenics water to a couple of areas to show rainwater collection.

For a drier, dusty environment,

the tarp was dry brushed with MMP Sand (I found the Mig to be too 'sticky'), and the surface rubbed back with a fingertip to force the powder into the small depressions in the tissue. Then I added small splotches of Mig pigments (European dust, Dark mud), and rubbed them back with the paintbrush (don't use a finger as it smears).

CONCLUSION

The method is quick (start to finish in 90 min), and produces a totally realistic, and waterproof, tarpaulin. Because the treated surface of the tissue is so robust, it's virtually un-tearable, and any weathering errors can be washed off and redone without soaking and destroying the tarp. ■



TAMIYA

1:48 GERMAN KING TIGER "PRODUCTION TURRET"

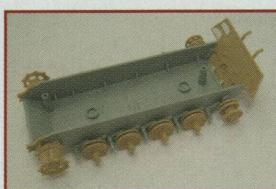
ITEM NO.32536

Tamiya are going strong with their range of 1:48 armour, this time we have the mighty King Tiger. As with the other AFVs in the range the KT comes with a metal lower hull and fixed suspension arms. The level of detail and parts fit is typically Tamiya, I only wish there was some form of blank to go under the fans and intake grills, as you can see daylight through them.

Three decal options are included, two in ambush schemes without zimmerit and the third from sPzAbt 505 features a full zimmerit coat and the famous charging knight markings on the sides of the turret.

Available from all good model shops.

8.5/10 The Editor



BLAST MODELS

1:35 US M7 PRIEST STOWAGE

ITEM NO.BL35084K

This is a four-piece resin set to add to the M7 Priest by Italeri. The front stowage is made up of jerry cans, K rations and tarpaulins all sitting on top of the L shaped planks between the drive housing. On the rear deck sits a mass of tarpaulins, kit bags and packs spread over the rear deck covering tool stowage. A personal kit bag and K ration box are provided to add to the stowage at will. All are in a crisp, sharp cream resin.

A small package but a great addition for anyone wanting a convenient and very realistic set of stowage that will fit your M7 perfectly.

www.blast-models.com

8.5/10 The Editor



LIFECOLOR

ACRYLIC HOBBY COLOURS

GERMAN WWII TANKS SET 2

Consisting of six colours for World War II German vehicles, this set includes Khakibraun, Rotbraun, Dunkelbraun, Signalbraun, Anthrazitgrau and Schwartzgrau.

Having used Lifecolor paints on many occasions I can recommend them with out any doubt, they can be sprayed and brush painted equally well. They dry to an ultra flat finish, which is all-important when painting uniforms. When being applied by brush gives a very good first coat coverage, again very important meaning detail isn't lost under lots of layers of paint.

www.cammett.co.uk

9/10 The Editor



LIFECOLOR

ACRYLIC HOBBY COLOURS

GERMAN WWII UNIFORMS SET 1

Includes two shades of tropical tan and field grey, field blue, brown service shirt.

www.cammett.co.uk

9/10 The Editor

LIFECOLOR

ACRYLIC HOBBY COLOURS

GERMAN WWII UNIFORMS SET 2

This set features colours appropriate to Fallschirmjager, and a black/grey for panzer crew uniforms.

www.cammett.co.uk

9/10 The Editor

Coming Soon...

Editions du Barbotin

New in from Editions du Barbotin is this set of waterslide decals designed for Tamiya's Char B1 and Bis. The set contains markings for 8 vehicles, which offer some colourful alternatives to the sheet supplied with the kit. For more information please contact via e-mail to polmodels@aol.com who are stocking them in the UK or Editions du Barbotin direct at ed-barbotin@wanadoo.fr Or Editions du Barbotin 25 rue des jardins 91160 BALLAINVILLIERS FRANCE



BIG JOE BRAND

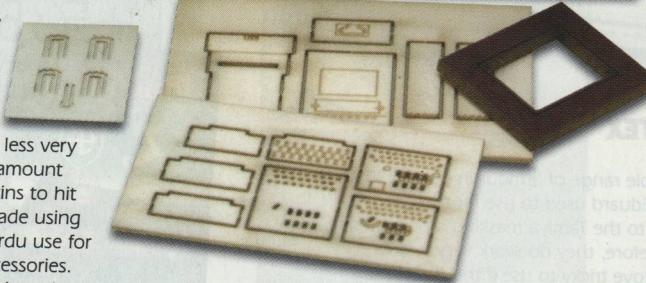
1:35 LASER CUT ENIGMA SET TO BUILD M-3 OR M-4 SET

ITEM NO. N/A

An unusual little item but none the less very useful to complement the massive amount of German WWII armour and softskins to hit the model shop shelves recently. Made using the same technology as Monroe Perdu use for their excellent range of laser cut accessories. Ease of assembly and its ability to take paint very well makes this the perfect material for this interesting decoding machine.

www.monroeperdu.com

9.5/10 The Editor



BLAST MODELS

1:35 FRONT BUMPER WITH STOWAGE M3/16/21 HALF TRACK

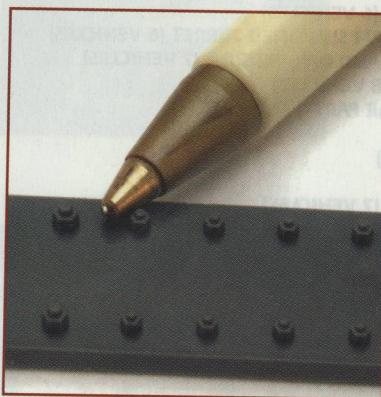
ITEM NO. BL35101K

Small but perfectly formed best describes this set, a pair of jerry cans in a neat stowage rack with boxes of all descriptions plus Tarpaulins all strapped down and beautifully tied off with bows. The undersides is just as detailed as above with the winch and drive motor shown in amazing detail, it's just a shame that you won't see it when it's on the half-track. This is only a small part of the stowage carried by the U.S. Half-tracks so you will need to add to this set to show your model fully stowed.

This is highly detailed set to add to the front of your M3, highly detailed and worth every penny.

www.blast-models.com

9/10 Ian McGonagle



THE ARMORY BY GAUNTLET

INJECTION MOULDED PLASTIC NUTS AND BOLTS

Apart from the wing nuts all are moulded to a backing block and will need to be carefully sliced off using a very sharp craft knife.

www.home.earthlink.net/~mmodels

mmodels@earthlink.net

9/10 The Editor

NUTS AND BOLTS (240 PIECES)

ITEM NO. AG135

HEX BOLTS (240 PIECES)

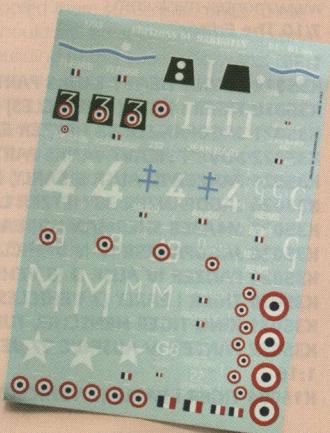
ITEM NO. AG131

CONICAL RIVETS (240 PIECES)

ITEM NO. AG130

WING NUTS (60 PIECES)

ITEM NO. AG136



Blicz

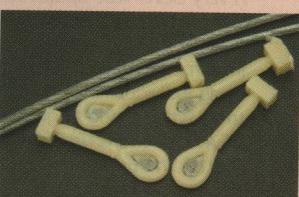
New to us are these very nice 1:35 detail sets from the Czech Republic manufacturer Blicz e-mail: blicz@seznam.cz

35 021 Rear armour for Pz.IV H late, with early idler wheel mountings, to fit Tamiya kit.

35043 Tube for barrel cleaning rods for panther A,G and Jagdpanther.

35047 Roof for Jagdpanzer IV L/70 late, with details, to fit Dragon kit.

35058 Tow cables with ends for Tiger I, Tiger II, Jagdtiger, Ferdinand and Elefant.



Incoming



PLASTIC MODEL CLUB MONTEX

SUPER MASKS

New to us are these vinyl masks for a whole range of armour in both 1:35 and 1:16. This is the same type of vinyl mask Eduard used to use for their aircraft canopy masking system, before changing to the Tamiya masking tape material. I have tried this type of masking system before, they do work very well on flat smooth surfaces, however they can prove tricky to use if the surface has protrusions or zimmerit for example.

www.montex-mask.com

7/10 The Editor

1:35

K35014 SOVIET HEAVY TANKS PART III KV-1S (8 VEHICLES)

K35018 TIGER I LATE (6 VEHICLES)

K35021 JAGDPANZER 38 HETZER EARLY (6 VEHICLES)

K35022 SOVIET HEAVY TANKS PART IV KV-1 SIMPLIFIED TURRET (6 VEHICLES)

K35024 PANZER IV AUSF. E EARLY, LATE AND DAK VERSION (7 VEHICLES)

K35026 JAGDPANZER 38 HETZER LATE (8 VEHICLES)

K35027 M4A3E8 SHERMAN KOREAN WAR PART II (2 VEHICLES)

K35028 JAGDPANZER IV (8 VEHICLES)

K35029 PANZER IV AUSF. D (5 VEHICLES)

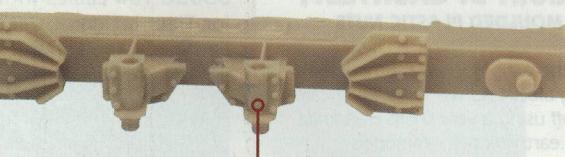
K35030 TIGER I EARLY (7 VEHICLES)

K35031 KING TIGER HENSCHEL TURRET (7 VEHICLES)

K35032 PANZER IV AUSF.B/C 97 VEHICLES

1:16

K16004 TIGER I EARLY (7 VEHICLES)



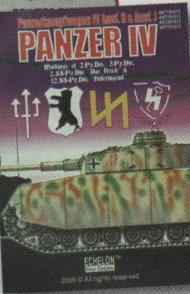
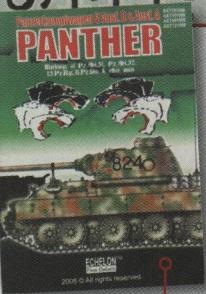
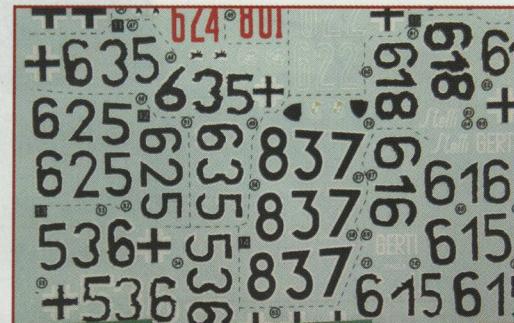
FORMATIONS

1:35 SHERMAN ADJUSTABLE IDLER WHEEL MOUNTS

ITEM NO. F052

A very clever little update for any VVSS suspended Shermans, these adjustable mounts will be ideal for anyone wanting to build the ultimate Sherman, but more importantly they will prove especially useful for anyone using individual link tracks that can sometimes prove tricky when trying to get the right amount of tension. www.formationsmodels.com

9.5/10 The Editor



ECHELON FINE DETAILS

WATER SLIDE DECALS

More superb water slide decals from Echelon, this time we are offered two sets for the Panther and a set for late war Panzer IV's, as usual the printing is first class and the instructions not only show their placement with inspirational colour illustrations but also offer some notes on detail differences and any points peculiar to that particular vehicle.

www.accurate-armour.com

7/10 The Editor

1:35 PANTHER AUS.F AND A

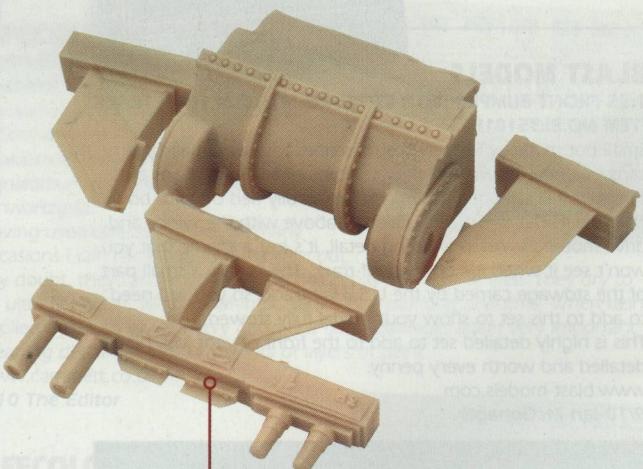
ITEM NO. AXT351009

1:35 DECALS FOR PANTHER AUSF A AND G

ITEM NO. AXT35015

1:35 PANZER IV AUSF H AND J

ITEM NO. AXT35013



FORMATIONS

1:35 SHERMAN THREE PIECE TRANSMISSION

ITEM NO. F024

Rob Ervin from Formations just keeps spoiling fans of the Sherman, this time we have a highly detailed 3-piece transmission designed specifically for Dragon's M4A4 and M4A1 kits. Two styles of front fenders and drive sprocket axles are included so this set can be adapted to fit Academy, Italeri and Tamiya M4 based vehicles. Beautiful casting, fine detail and simple straightforward instructions all help make this a great update for any appropriate Sherman.

www.formationsmodels.com

9.5/10 The Editor

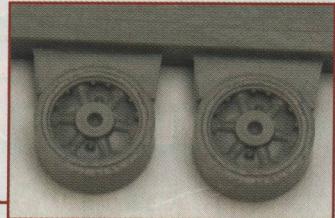
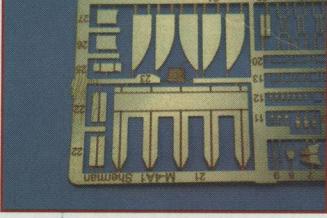
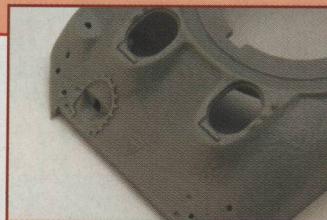


DRAGON

1:72 M4A1 SHERMAN NORMANDY ITEM NO.7273

Fresh on the heels of the superb M4A3 (76mm) is this M4A1. This kit is every bit as good, if not better. The cast texture of the turret and hull is particularly well rendered. Other highlights include neat little a brass fret, which includes headlight guards, front fenders and a Cullin hedgerow cutter. Dragon have included two sets of their excellent DS100 glueable vinyl tracks giving the option of either 3 bar cleat or rubber chevron types. This kit just confirms that Dragon are striving to bring the very best in both 1:72 as well as 1:35. Available from all good model shops.

10/10 *The Editor*

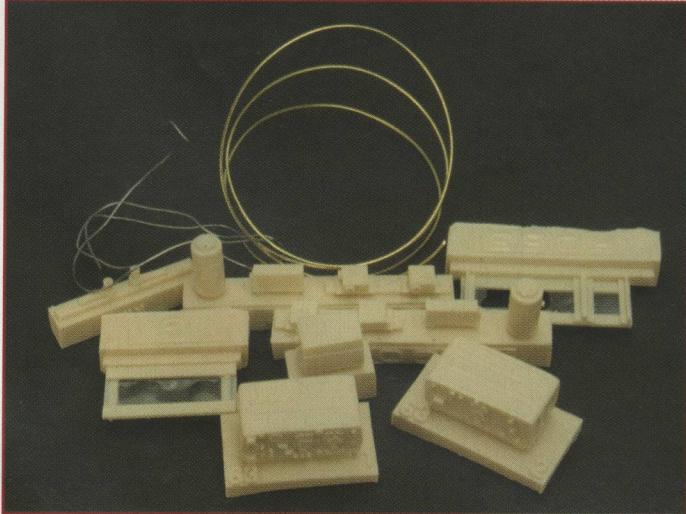


CALIBRE 72

1:72 SHERMAN STAMPED WHEELS ITEM NO.72 008

Although not really compatible with Dragon's latest 1:72 Shermans for example, due to the way they have tooled there suspension units. These should still be appreciated by anyone building in this scale who wants the best detailed parts available for there latest project. For serious small scale Allied armour fans will be ideal for the spares box to help replicate that cluttered look so often associated with these vehicles.

www.calibre35.cz
8.5/10 *The Editor*



FORMATIONS

1:35 NO.19 BRITISH RADIO SET ITEM NO. F063

The No.19 radio was the standard wireless used in all British vehicles from around the time of El Alamein. All the parts needed for one complete radio fit to your chosen vehicle. The small instruction sheet does state that reference will need to be sourced for the exact fit of these parts, due mainly to the fact that to cover every vehicle Formations would have to include a book to list every vehicle that was fitted with this set.

Superbly detailed but one for the experienced modeller, because further research will be needed.

www.formationsmodels.com

8/10 *The Editor*



ECHELON FINE DETAILS

1:35 MIRRORS

These new mirrors are a great idea from Echelon, designed specifically for particular vehicles they will be a massive improvement and look. Far more realistic than trying to use silver paint. This is another of those products that once you have tried them, you will never be satisfied trying to paint them again.

www.accurate-armour.com

10/10 *The Editor*

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M357002 TAMIYA CHALLENGER II

M357003 TAMIYA LECLERC SERIES II MBT

M357004 TAMIYA HUMVEE M1025/M1046

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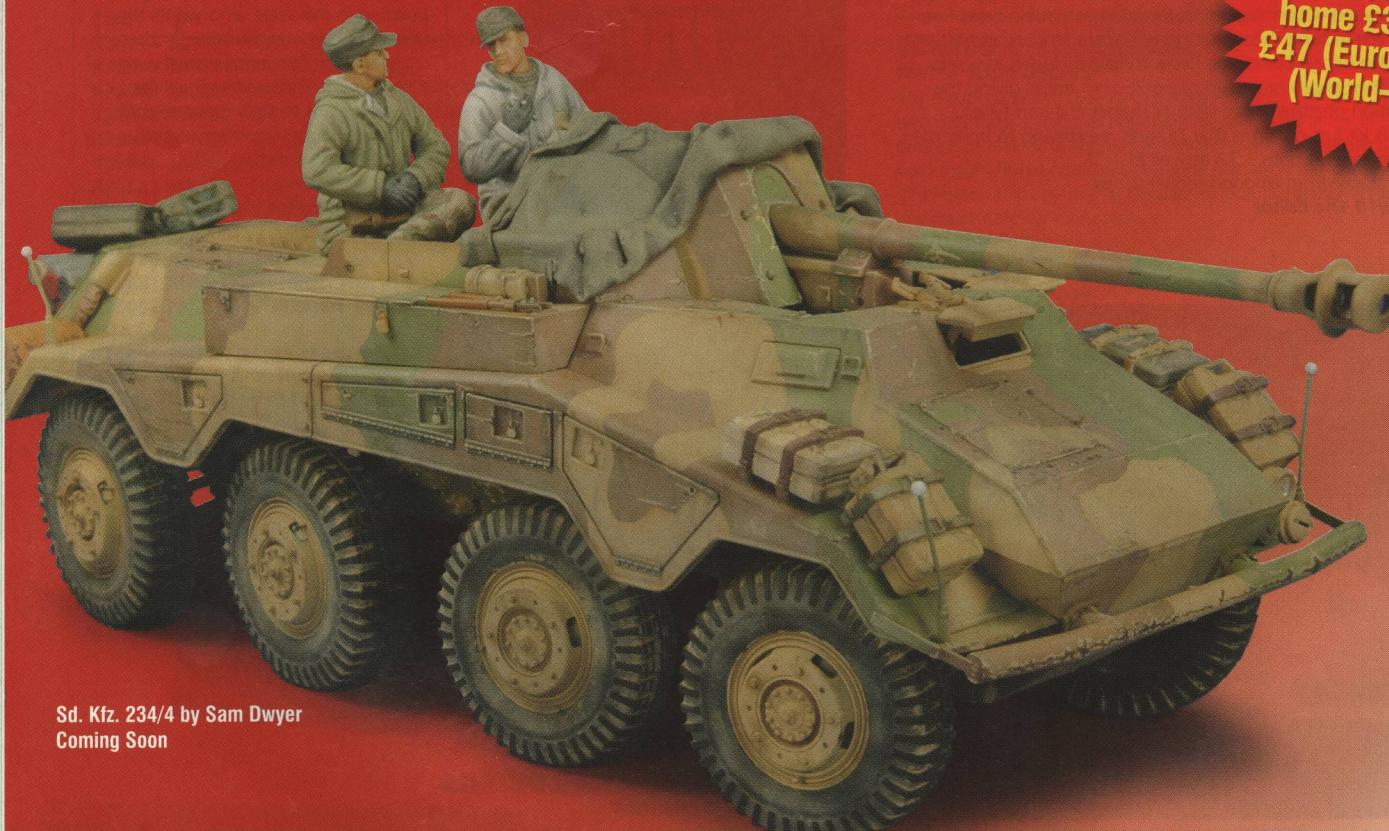
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Next Issue - On sale November 2nd 2006



Flaktastic

Andy King builds Tristar's lovely little Flak Panzer IA.



Big Cat Diary

Frank Helmling superdetails the exterior and upgrades the internals of Tamiya's 1:16 Radio Controlled Tiger I in a comprehensive article.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!



Patton's Fangs

Mark Neville brings Dragon's 1:35 Operation Cobra M4A1 (76) to life, with his stunning painting techniques.

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

ISSUE No.7 NOVEMBER 2006,
PUBLISHED October 5th 2006

Editor: John 'Spud' Murphy
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Subscription Manager: Andrea Berridge
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Printed by:
Symbian Print Intelligence, Hertfordshire, UK

Distributed by:
Odyssey Publisher Services Ltd
No.7 St Andrews Way
Devons Road
Bromley by Bow
London E3 3PA
Tel: 0870 240 2058
Fax: 0870 240 2059
Email: ops@odyssey-pub.co.uk

Model Military International is published on the first Thursday of each month by:
ADH Publishing
Doolittle Mill
Doolittle Lane
Totternhoe
Bedfordshire
LU6 1QX UK
www.modelmilitary.com
Tel: +44 (0)1525 222573
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KEEP 'EM COMING

The manufacturers are really spoiling us at the moment...

With the forthcoming release of Trumpeters Stryker, it seems of late all our military vehicle model wishes are coming true, with things like AFV Club's excellent Centurion MBT, which by all accounts will be the first of several variants. Tamiya with their recent Char B1 bis and Leclerc, Trumpeter have been busy given us some mega models to sink our teeth into, in the form of the gigantic German railway gun

Leopold, the Morsars Karl and Loki and the mantlepiece filling BR-52 steam locomotive.

As for Dragon, they have made it their mission to bring us all those models we have been wanting for so long time and not only that but have even been up-dating their earlier releases. We have seen just about every mark of the Tiger, Panther and Panzer IV amongst others with boxes literally bursting at the seams. It wasn't that long ago

that if someone said we would have landing craft, helicopters, locomotives and tank transporters in injection plastic and all in 1:35 scale, you would laugh at them!

I propose that the only way us modellers can keep up with the incredible release schedules of the kit manufacturers is to demand a new two day working week and a five day modelling weekend, that or we will have to sprout a second pair of arms! ■

Spud



PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

■ Blending Sticks

My product of the month this time is a cheap, simple tool available from all good art shops. These fibre pencils are perfect for applying pastels and graphite powders for example.

The Stryker M1126 ICV on the way from Trumpeter in 1:35 anytime soon.

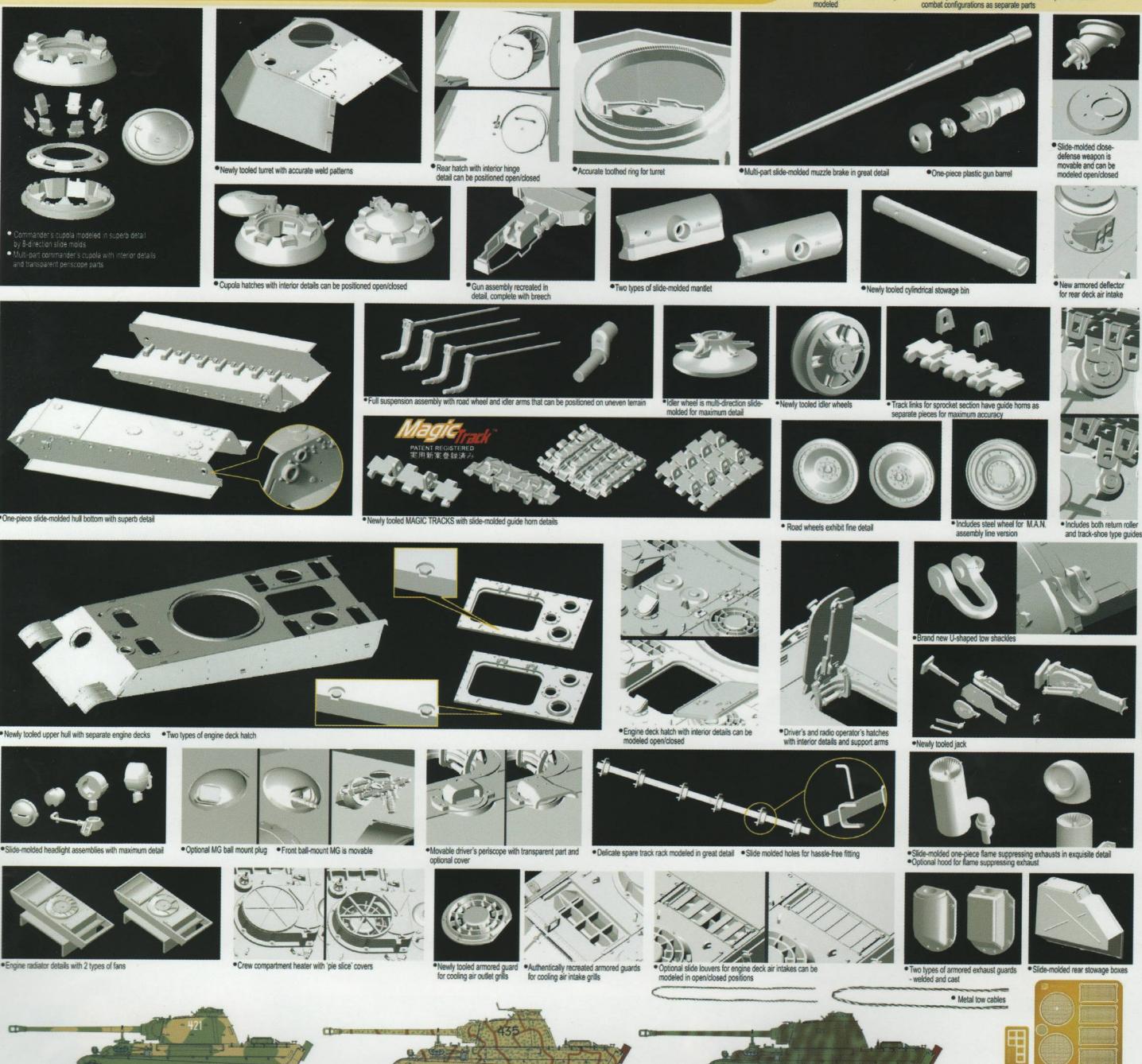


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1/48
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HAMMER OF THE WERHMACHT

1/48 GERMAN PANZERKAMPFWAGEN III Ausf.L

(ITEM 32524)



ABOUT THE GERMAN PANZER III Ausf.L

The Panzer III Ausf.L was introduced in July 1942 as an attempt to improve the tank's survivability in the face of heavily armed T34 and KV tanks encountered on the Russian Front. Armament consisted of an improved, long barreled KwK50 L/60 tank gun, which was effective against Russian T34 tanks up to a range of 600m, plus two 7.92mm MG34 machine guns. Front armor thickness was increased to 57mm, and 20mm thick spaced armor was added to the front hull and gun mantlet as well. The suspension system was strengthened to cope with the 200kg of added weight, and other modifications were made to ensure smooth engine operation in extreme weather conditions. A total of 635 Ausf.L tanks were produced by the end of 1942, many seeing active service on the Eastern and North African Fronts.

ABOUT THE MODEL

This scaled-down version of the 1/48 Panzer III Ausf.L features masterful detail in a compact package. The tank's L/60 cannon is accurately depicted, together with impressive reproduction of the spaced armor panels added to the turret and hull front. Further exquisite detailing, which is amazingly simple to assemble, includes spare track roller wheels and miscellaneous equipment mounted onto the hull. This model includes separate parts to depict hull-side escape hatches and shot deflector below the gun mantlet, features that were dropped from later versions of the Ausf.L. Assembly type treads even capture realistic slackness of the upper track section. Kit includes 3 sets of markings to depict units including the sPzAbt 502 serving in Russia and the 10th Panzer Division in Tunisia.

Diecast lower hull gives model satisfying weight and presence.



Spaced armor on turret and hull front is realistically depicted

1/48 MM SERIES LINEUP

Offering an incredibly wide variety of choices, including tanks, light armor and support vehicles of both Axis and Allied forces. Although small in size, these models accurately capture the details of the full size vehicles. Add figures and accessories to create your own large scale desktop battle scenes.



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The 1/48 MM Series continues to grow, with a number of new items planned for release over the coming months. Watch this space for more information!